



US007707920B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Gass et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,707,920 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 4, 2010**

(54) **TABLE SAWS WITH SAFETY SYSTEMS**

(75) Inventors: **Stephen F. Gass**, Wilsonville, OR (US);
J. David Fulmer, Tualatin, OR (US);
David A. Fanning, Vancouver, WA (US)

(73) Assignee: **SD3, LLC**, Tualatin, OR (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 992 days.

302,041 A 7/1884 Sill
307,112 A 10/1884 Groff
509,253 A 11/1893 Shields
545,504 A 9/1895 Hoover
869,513 A 10/1907 Pfeil
941,726 A 11/1909 Pfalzgraf
997,720 A 7/1911 Troupenat
1,037,843 A 9/1912 Ackley

(21) Appl. No.: **11/026,114**

(Continued)

(22) Filed: **Dec. 31, 2004**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

CH 297525 6/1954

US 2005/0139057 A1 Jun. 30, 2005

Related U.S. Application Data

(Continued)

(60) Provisional application No. 60/533,811, filed on Dec. 31, 2003.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(51) **Int. Cl.**
B23D 45/16 (2006.01)
B26D 1/14 (2006.01)

Skil Model 3400-Type 1 10" Table Saw Parts List and Technical Bulletin, S-B Power Tool Company, Jun. 1993.

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **83/781**; 83/62.1; 83/DIG. 1;
83/471.1; 83/471.3; 83/477.1; 83/491

Primary Examiner—Ghassem Alie

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 83/581,
83/62.1, 781, DIG. 1, 477.2, 477.1, 473,
83/471.1, 468.3, 485, 489, 698.11, 491, 609,
83/508.2, 102.1, 471.3, 471.2, 860, 58; 451/454,
451/455; 409/134; 144/3.1, 130, 286.5,
144/287

(57) **ABSTRACT**

See application file for complete search history.

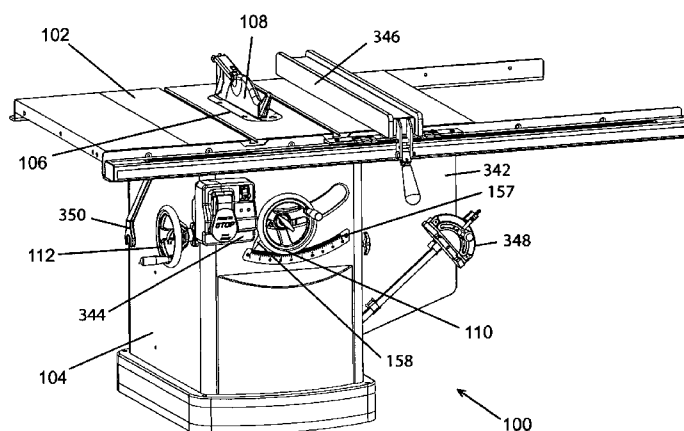
Improved table saws and table saws designed to implement safety systems that detect contact between a person and a dangerous portion of the saw are disclosed. The table saws may include an elevation mechanism, a tilt mechanism, and an adjustment system configured to adjust the parallelism between a tilt axis and a blade. The elevation mechanism may include a vertical slide that includes two shafts, and the adjustment system may include a mechanism to adjust the parallelism of the two shafts.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

146,886 A 1/1874 Doane et al.
162,814 A 5/1875 Graves et al.
261,090 A 7/1882 Grill
264,412 A 9/1882 Kuhlmann
299,480 A 5/1884 Kuhlmann et al.

13 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets



US 7,707,920 B2

Page 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
1,050,649 A	1/1913	Harrold et al.	2,312,118 A	2/1943	Neisewander
1,054,558 A	2/1913	Jones	2,313,686 A	3/1943	Uremovich
1,074,198 A	9/1913	Phillips	2,328,244 A	8/1943	Woodward
1,082,870 A	12/1913	Humason	2,352,235 A	6/1944	Tautz
1,101,515 A	6/1914	Adam	2,377,265 A	3/1945	Rady
1,126,970 A	2/1915	Folmer	2,392,486 A	1/1946	Larsen
1,132,129 A	3/1915	Stevens	2,402,232 A	6/1946	G.T. Baker
1,148,169 A	7/1915	Howe	2,425,331 A	8/1947	Kramer
1,154,209 A	9/1915	Rushton	2,434,174 A	1/1948	Morgan
1,205,246 A	11/1916	Mowry	2,452,589 A	11/1948	McWhirter et al.
1,228,047 A	5/1917	Reinhold	2,466,325 A	4/1949	Ocenasek
1,240,430 A	9/1917	Erickson	2,496,613 A	2/1950	Wooward
1,244,187 A	10/1917	Frisbie	2,509,813 A	5/1950	Dineen
1,255,886 A	2/1918	Jones	2,517,649 A	8/1950	Frechtmann
1,258,961 A	3/1918	Tattersall	2,518,684 A	8/1950	Harris
1,311,508 A	7/1919	Harrold	2,530,290 A	11/1950	Collins
1,324,136 A	12/1919	Turner	2,554,124 A	5/1951	Salmont
1,381,612 A	6/1921	Anderson	2,562,396 A	7/1951	Schutz
1,397,606 A	11/1921	Smith	2,572,326 A	10/1951	Evans
1,427,005 A	8/1922	McMichael	2,590,035 A	3/1952	Pollak
1,430,983 A	10/1922	Granberg	2,593,596 A	4/1952	Olson
1,450,906 A	4/1923	Anderson	2,601,878 A	7/1952	Anderson
1,464,924 A	8/1923	Drummond	2,623,555 A	12/1952	Eschenburg
1,465,224 A	8/1923	Lantz	2,625,966 A	1/1953	Copp
1,496,212 A	6/1924	French	2,626,639 A	1/1953	Hess
1,511,797 A	10/1924	Berghold	2,661,777 A	12/1953	Hitchcock
1,526,128 A	2/1925	Flohr	2,661,780 A	12/1953	Morgan
1,527,587 A	2/1925	Hutchinson	2,675,707 A	4/1954	Brown
1,551,900 A	9/1925	Morrow	2,678,071 A	5/1954	Odium et al.
1,553,996 A	9/1925	Federer	2,690,084 A	9/1954	Van Dam
1,582,483 A	4/1926	Runyan	2,695,638 A	11/1954	Gaskell
1,590,988 A	6/1926	Campbell	2,704,560 A	3/1955	Woessner
1,600,604 A	9/1926	Sorlien	2,711,762 A	6/1955	Gaskell
1,616,478 A	2/1927	Watson	2,722,246 A	11/1955	Arnoldy
1,640,517 A	8/1927	Procknow	2,731,049 A	1/1956	Akin
1,662,372 A	3/1928	Ward	2,736,348 A	2/1956	Nelson
1,701,948 A	2/1929	Crowe	2,737,213 A	3/1956	Richards et al.
1,711,490 A	5/1929	Drummond	2,758,615 A	8/1956	Mastriforte
1,712,828 A	5/1929	Klehm	2,785,710 A	3/1957	Mowery, Jr
1,774,521 A	9/1930	Neighbour	2,786,496 A	3/1957	Eschenburg
1,787,191 A *	12/1930	Fisk 83/486.1	2,810,408 A	10/1957	Boice et al.
1,807,120 A	5/1931	Lewis	2,839,943 A	6/1958	Caldwell et al.
1,811,066 A	6/1931	Tannewitz	2,844,173 A	7/1958	Gaskell
1,879,280 A	9/1932	James	2,850,054 A	9/1958	Eschenburg
1,896,924 A	2/1933	Ulrich	2,852,047 A	9/1958	Odium et al.
1,902,270 A	3/1933	Tate	2,873,773 A	2/1959	Gaskell
1,904,005 A	4/1933	Masset	2,876,809 A	3/1959	Rentsch et al.
1,910,651 A	5/1933	Tautz	2,883,486 A	4/1959	Mason
1,938,548 A	12/1933	Tautz	2,894,546 A	7/1959	Eschenburg
1,938,549 A	12/1933	Tautz	2,913,025 A	11/1959	Richards
1,963,688 A	6/1934	Tautz	2,913,581 A	11/1959	Simonton et al.
1,988,102 A	1/1935	Woodward	2,945,516 A	7/1960	Edgemon, Jr. et al.
1,993,219 A	3/1935	Merrigan	2,954,118 A	9/1960	Anderson
2,007,887 A	7/1935	Tautz	2,957,166 A	10/1960	Gluck
2,010,851 A	8/1935	Drummond	2,978,084 A	4/1961	Vilkaitis
2,020,222 A	11/1935	Tautz	2,984,268 A	5/1961	Vuichard
2,038,810 A	4/1936	Tautz	2,991,593 A	7/1961	Cohen
2,075,282 A	3/1937	Hedgpeth	3,005,477 A	10/1961	Sherwen
2,095,330 A	10/1937	Hedgpeth	3,011,529 A	12/1961	Copp
2,106,288 A	1/1938	Tautz	3,011,610 A	12/1961	Stiebel et al.
2,106,321 A	1/1938	Guertin	3,013,592 A	12/1961	Ambrosio et al.
2,121,069 A	6/1938	Collins	3,021,881 A	2/1962	Edgemon, Jr. et al.
2,131,492 A	9/1938	Ocenasek	3,035,995 A	5/1962	Seeley et al
2,163,320 A	6/1939	Hammond	3,047,116 A	7/1962	Stiebel et al.
2,168,282 A	8/1939	Tautz	3,085,602 A	4/1963	Gaskell
2,241,556 A	5/1941	MacMillin et al.	3,105,530 A	10/1963	Peterson
2,261,696 A	11/1941	Ocenasek	3,124,178 A *	3/1964	Packard 83/473
2,265,407 A	12/1941	Tautz	3,129,731 A	4/1964	Tyrrell
2,286,589 A	6/1942	Tannewitz	3,163,732 A	12/1964	Abbott
2,292,872 A	8/1942	Eastman	3,184,001 A	5/1965	Reinsch et al.
2,299,262 A	10/1942	Uremovich	3,186,256 A	6/1965	Reznick
			3,207,273 A	9/1965	Jurin
			3,213,731 A	10/1965	Renard

US 7,707,920 B2

Page 3

3,224,474 A	12/1965	Bloom	4,029,159 A	6/1977	Nymann
3,232,326 A	2/1966	Speer et al.	4,047,156 A	9/1977	Atkins
3,246,205 A	4/1966	Miller	4,048,886 A	9/1977	Zettler
3,249,134 A	5/1966	Vogl et al.	4,060,160 A	11/1977	Lieber
3,276,497 A	10/1966	Heer	4,070,940 A	1/1978	McDaniel et al.
3,280,861 A *	10/1966	Gjerde 83/473	4,075,961 A	2/1978	Harris
3,306,149 A	2/1967	John	4,077,161 A	3/1978	Wyle et al.
3,313,185 A	4/1967	Drake et al.	4,085,303 A	4/1978	McIntyre et al.
3,315,715 A	4/1967	Mytinger	4,090,345 A	5/1978	Harkness
3,323,814 A	6/1967	Phillips	4,091,698 A	5/1978	Obear et al.
3,337,008 A	8/1967	Trachte	4,106,378 A	8/1978	Kaiser
3,356,111 A	12/1967	Mitchell	4,117,752 A	10/1978	Yoneda
3,386,322 A	6/1968	Stone et al.	4,145,940 A	3/1979	Woloveke et al.
3,439,183 A	4/1969	Hurst, Jr.	4,152,833 A	5/1979	Phillips
3,445,835 A	5/1969	Fudaley	4,161,649 A	7/1979	Klos et al.
3,454,286 A	7/1969	Anderson et al.	4,175,452 A	11/1979	Idel
3,456,696 A	7/1969	Gregory et al.	4,190,000 A	2/1980	Shaul et al.
3,512,440 A	5/1970	Frydman	4,195,722 A	4/1980	Anderson et al.
3,538,964 A	11/1970	Warrick et al.	4,199,930 A	4/1980	Lebet et al.
3,540,338 A	11/1970	McEwan et al.	4,206,666 A	6/1980	Ashton
3,554,067 A	1/1971	Scutella	4,206,910 A	6/1980	Biesemeyer
3,566,996 A	3/1971	Crossman	4,249,117 A	2/1981	Leukhardt et al.
3,580,376 A	5/1971	Loshbough	4,249,442 A	2/1981	Fittery
3,581,784 A	6/1971	Warrick	4,262,278 A	4/1981	Howard et al.
3,593,266 A	7/1971	Van Sickle	4,267,914 A	5/1981	Saar
3,613,748 A	10/1971	De Pue	4,270,427 A	6/1981	Colberg et al.
3,621,894 A	11/1971	Niksich	4,276,459 A	6/1981	Willett et al.
3,670,788 A *	6/1972	Pollak et al. 83/508.2	4,276,799 A	7/1981	Muehling
3,675,444 A	7/1972	Whipple	4,291,794 A	9/1981	Bauer
3,680,609 A	8/1972	Menge	4,305,442 A	12/1981	Currie
3,688,815 A	9/1972	Ridenour	4,321,841 A	3/1982	Felix
3,695,116 A	10/1972	Baur	4,372,202 A	2/1983	Cameron
3,696,844 A	10/1972	Bernatschek	4,391,358 A	7/1983	Haeger
3,716,113 A	2/1973	Kobayashi et al.	4,418,597 A	12/1983	Krusemark et al.
3,719,103 A	3/1973	Streander	4,427,042 A	1/1984	Mitchell et al.
3,745,546 A	7/1973	Struger et al.	4,466,170 A	8/1984	Davis
3,749,933 A	7/1973	Davidson	4,466,233 A	8/1984	Thesman
3,754,493 A	8/1973	Niehaus et al.	4,470,046 A	9/1984	Betsill
3,772,590 A	11/1973	Mikulecky et al.	4,510,489 A	4/1985	Anderson, III et al.
3,785,230 A	1/1974	Lokey	4,512,224 A	4/1985	Terauchi
3,793,915 A	2/1974	Hujer	4,516,612 A *	5/1985	Wiley 144/1.1
3,805,639 A	4/1974	Peter	4,518,043 A	5/1985	Anderson et al.
3,805,658 A	4/1974	Scott et al.	4,532,501 A	7/1985	Hoffman
3,808,932 A	5/1974	Russell	4,532,844 A	8/1985	Chang et al.
3,829,850 A	8/1974	Guetersloh	4,557,168 A	12/1985	Tokiwa
3,829,970 A	8/1974	Anderson	4,559,858 A	12/1985	Laskowski et al.
3,841,188 A *	10/1974	Wiater 83/471.3	4,560,033 A	12/1985	DeWoody et al.
3,858,095 A	12/1974	Friemann et al.	4,566,512 A	1/1986	Wilson
3,861,016 A	1/1975	Johnson et al.	4,573,556 A	3/1986	Andreasson
3,863,208 A	1/1975	Balban	4,576,073 A	3/1986	Stinson
3,880,032 A	4/1975	Green	4,589,047 A	5/1986	Gaus et al.
3,882,744 A	5/1975	McCarroll	4,589,860 A	5/1986	Brandenstein et al.
3,886,413 A	5/1975	Dow et al.	4,599,597 A	7/1986	Rotbart
3,889,567 A	6/1975	Sato et al.	4,599,927 A	7/1986	Eccardt et al.
3,922,785 A	12/1975	Fushiya	4,606,251 A	8/1986	Boileau
3,924,688 A	12/1975	Cooper et al.	4,615,247 A	10/1986	Berkeley
3,931,727 A	1/1976	Luenser	4,621,300 A	11/1986	Summerer
3,935,777 A	2/1976	Bassett	4,625,604 A	12/1986	Handler et al.
3,945,286 A	3/1976	Smith	4,637,188 A	1/1987	Crothers
3,946,631 A	3/1976	Malm	4,637,289 A	1/1987	Ramsden
3,947,734 A	3/1976	Fyler	4,644,832 A	2/1987	Smith
3,949,636 A	4/1976	Ball et al.	4,653,189 A	3/1987	Andreasson
3,953,770 A	4/1976	Hayashi	4,657,428 A	4/1987	Wiley
3,960,310 A	6/1976	Nussbaum	4,672,500 A	6/1987	Tholome
3,967,161 A	6/1976	Lichtblau	4,675,664 A	6/1987	Cloutier et al.
3,974,565 A	8/1976	Ellis	4,679,719 A	7/1987	Kramer
3,975,600 A	8/1976	Marston	4,722,021 A	1/1988	Hornung et al.
3,978,624 A	9/1976	Merkel et al.	4,751,603 A	6/1988	Kwan
3,994,192 A	11/1976	Faig	4,756,220 A	7/1988	Olsen et al.
4,007,679 A	2/1977	Edwards	4,757,881 A	7/1988	Jonsson et al.
4,016,490 A	4/1977	Weckenmann et al.	4,774,866 A	10/1988	Dehari et al.
4,026,174 A	5/1977	Fierro	4,792,965 A	12/1988	Morgan
4,026,177 A	5/1977	Lokey	4,805,504 A	2/1989	Fushiya et al.

US 7,707,920 B2

Page 4

4,831,279 A	5/1989	Ingraham	5,592,353 A	1/1997	Shinohara et al.
4,840,135 A	6/1989	Yamauchi	5,606,889 A	3/1997	Bielinski et al.
4,845,476 A	7/1989	Rangear et al.	5,619,896 A	4/1997	Chen
4,864,455 A	9/1989	Shimomura et al.	5,623,860 A	4/1997	Schoene et al.
4,875,398 A	10/1989	Taylor et al.	5,647,258 A	7/1997	Brazell et al.
4,896,607 A	1/1990	Hall et al.	5,648,644 A	7/1997	Nagel
4,906,962 A	3/1990	Duimstra	5,659,454 A	8/1997	Vermesse
4,907,679 A	3/1990	Menke	5,667,152 A	9/1997	Mooring
4,934,233 A	6/1990	Brundage et al.	5,671,633 A	9/1997	Wagner
4,936,876 A	6/1990	Reyes	5,695,306 A	12/1997	Nygren, Jr.
4,937,554 A	6/1990	Herman	5,700,165 A	12/1997	Harris et al.
4,964,450 A	10/1990	Hughes et al.	5,722,308 A	3/1998	Ceroll et al.
4,965,909 A	10/1990	McCullough et al.	5,724,875 A	3/1998	Meredith et al.
4,975,798 A	12/1990	Edwards et al.	5,730,165 A	3/1998	Philipp
5,020,406 A	6/1991	Sasaki et al.	5,741,048 A	4/1998	Eccleston
5,025,175 A	6/1991	Dubois, III	5,755,148 A	5/1998	Stumpf et al.
5,042,348 A	8/1991	Brundage et al.	5,771,742 A	6/1998	Bokaie et al.
5,046,426 A	9/1991	Julien et al.	5,782,001 A	7/1998	Gray
5,052,255 A	10/1991	Gaines	5,787,779 A	8/1998	Garuglieri
5,074,047 A	12/1991	King	5,791,057 A	8/1998	Nakamura et al.
5,081,406 A	1/1992	Hughes et al.	5,791,223 A	8/1998	Lanzer
5,082,316 A	1/1992	Wardlaw	5,791,224 A	8/1998	Suzuki et al.
5,083,973 A	1/1992	Townsend	5,791,441 A	8/1998	Matos et al.
5,086,890 A	2/1992	Turczyn et al.	5,819,619 A	10/1998	Miller et al.
5,094,000 A	3/1992	Becht et al.	5,852,951 A	12/1998	Santi
5,116,249 A	5/1992	Shiotani et al.	5,857,507 A	1/1999	Puzio et al.
5,119,555 A	6/1992	Johnson	5,861,809 A	1/1999	Eckstein et al.
5,122,091 A	6/1992	Townsend	5,875,698 A	3/1999	Ceroll et al.
5,174,349 A	12/1992	Svetlik et al.	5,880,954 A	3/1999	Thomson et al.
5,184,534 A	2/1993	Lee	5,921,367 A	7/1999	Kashioka et al.
5,198,702 A	3/1993	McCullough et al.	5,927,857 A	7/1999	Ceroll et al.
5,199,343 A	4/1993	OBanion	5,930,096 A	7/1999	Kim
5,201,110 A	4/1993	Bane	5,937,720 A	8/1999	Itzov
5,201,684 A	4/1993	DeBois, III	5,942,975 A	8/1999	Sorensen
5,206,625 A	4/1993	Davis	5,943,932 A	8/1999	Sberveglieri
5,207,253 A	5/1993	Hoshino et al.	5,950,514 A	9/1999	Benedict et al.
5,212,621 A	5/1993	Panter	5,963,173 A	10/1999	Lian et al.
5,218,189 A	6/1993	Hutchison	5,974,927 A	11/1999	Tsune
5,231,359 A	7/1993	Masuda et al.	5,989,116 A	11/1999	Johnson et al.
5,231,906 A	8/1993	Kogej	6,009,782 A	1/2000	Tajima et al.
5,239,978 A	8/1993	Plangetis	6,018,284 A	1/2000	Rival et al.
5,245,879 A	9/1993	McKeon	6,037,729 A	3/2000	Woods et al.
5,257,570 A	11/1993	Shiotani et al.	D422,290 S	4/2000	Welsh et al.
5,265,510 A	11/1993	Hoyer-Ellefsen	6,052,884 A	4/2000	Steckler et al.
5,272,946 A	12/1993	McCullough et al.	6,062,121 A	5/2000	Ceroll et al.
5,276,431 A	1/1994	Piccoli et al.	6,070,484 A	6/2000	Sakamaki
5,285,708 A	2/1994	Bosten et al.	6,095,092 A	8/2000	Chou
5,293,802 A	3/1994	Shiotani et al.	6,112,785 A	9/2000	Yu
5,320,382 A	6/1994	Goldstein et al.	6,119,984 A	9/2000	Devine
5,321,230 A	6/1994	Shanklin et al.	6,131,629 A	10/2000	Puzio et al.
5,331,875 A	7/1994	Mayfield	6,133,818 A	10/2000	Shieh et al.
5,353,670 A	10/1994	Metzger, Jr.	6,141,192 A	10/2000	Garzon
5,377,554 A	1/1995	Reulein et al.	6,148,504 A	11/2000	Schmidt et al.
5,377,571 A	1/1995	Josephs	6,148,703 A	11/2000	Ceroll et al.
5,392,568 A	2/1995	Howard, Jr. et al.	6,150,826 A	11/2000	Hokodate et al.
5,392,678 A	2/1995	Sasaki et al.	6,161,459 A	12/2000	Ceroll et al.
5,401,928 A	3/1995	Kelley	6,170,370 B1	1/2001	Sommerville
5,411,221 A	5/1995	Collins et al.	6,244,149 B1	6/2001	Ceroll et al.
5,423,232 A	6/1995	Miller et al.	6,250,190 B1	6/2001	Ceroll et al.
5,436,613 A	7/1995	Ghosh et al.	6,257,061 B1	7/2001	Nonoyama et al.
5,447,085 A	9/1995	Gochner	6,325,195 B1	12/2001	Doherty
5,451,750 A	9/1995	An	6,330,848 B1	12/2001	Nishio et al.
5,453,903 A	9/1995	Chow	6,336,273 B1	1/2002	Nilsson et al.
5,471,888 A	12/1995	McCormick	6,352,137 B1	3/2002	Stegall et al.
5,480,009 A	1/1996	Wieland et al.	6,357,328 B1	3/2002	Ceroll et al.
5,503,059 A	4/1996	Pacholok	6,366,099 B1	4/2002	Reddi
5,510,587 A	4/1996	Reiter	6,376,939 B1	4/2002	Suzuki et al.
5,510,685 A	4/1996	Grasselli	6,404,098 B1	6/2002	Kayama et al.
5,513,548 A	5/1996	Garuglieri	6,405,624 B2	6/2002	Sutton
5,531,147 A	7/1996	Serban	6,418,829 B1	7/2002	Pilchowski
5,534,836 A	7/1996	Schenkel et al.	6,420,814 B1	7/2002	Bobbio
5,572,916 A	11/1996	Takano	6,427,570 B1	8/2002	Miller et al.
5,587,618 A	12/1996	Hathaway	6,430,007 B1	8/2002	Jabbari

US 7,707,920 B2

Page 5

6,431,425	B1	8/2002	Moorman et al.	2002/0050201	A1	5/2002	Lane et al.
6,450,077	B1	9/2002	Ceroll et al.	2002/0056348	A1	5/2002	Gass et al.
6,453,786	B1	9/2002	Ceroll et al.	2002/0056349	A1	5/2002	Gass et al.
6,460,442	B2	10/2002	Talesky et al.	2002/0056350	A1	5/2002	Gass et al.
6,471,106	B1	10/2002	Reining	2002/0059853	A1	5/2002	Gass et al.
6,479,958	B1	11/2002	Thompson et al.	2002/0059854	A1	5/2002	Gass et al.
6,484,614	B1	11/2002	Huang	2002/0069734	A1	6/2002	Gass et al.
D466,913	S	12/2002	Ceroll et al.	2002/0096030	A1	7/2002	Wang
6,492,802	B1	12/2002	Bielski	2002/0109036	A1	8/2002	Denen et al.
D469,354	S	1/2003	Curtsinger	2002/0170399	A1	11/2002	Gass et al.
6,502,493	B1	1/2003	Eccardt et al.	2002/0170400	A1	11/2002	Gass
6,536,536	B1	3/2003	Gass et al.	2002/0190581	A1	12/2002	Gass et al.
6,543,324	B2	4/2003	Dils	2003/0000359	A1	1/2003	Eccardt et al.
6,546,835	B2	4/2003	Wang	2003/0002942	A1	1/2003	Gass et al.
6,564,909	B1	5/2003	Razzano	2003/0005588	A1	1/2003	Gass et al.
6,575,067	B2	6/2003	Parks et al.	2003/0015253	A1	1/2003	Gass et al.
6,578,460	B2	6/2003	Sartori	2003/0019341	A1	1/2003	Gass et al.
6,578,856	B2	6/2003	Kahle	2003/0020336	A1	1/2003	Gass et al.
6,581,655	B2	6/2003	Huang	2003/0037651	A1	2/2003	Gass et al.
6,595,096	B2	7/2003	Ceroll et al.	2003/0037655	A1	2/2003	Chin-Chin
D478,917	S	8/2003	Ceroll et al.	2003/0056853	A1	3/2003	Gass et al.
6,601,493	B1	8/2003	Croft	2003/0058121	A1	3/2003	Gass et al.
6,607,015	B1	8/2003	Chen	2003/0074873	A1	4/2003	Freiberg et al.
D479,538	S	9/2003	Welsh et al.	2003/0089212	A1	5/2003	Parks et al.
6,617,720	B1	9/2003	Egan, III et al.	2003/0090224	A1	5/2003	Gass et al.
6,619,348	B2	9/2003	Wang	2003/0101857	A1	6/2003	Chuang
6,640,683	B2	11/2003	Lee	2003/0109798	A1	6/2003	Kermani
6,644,157	B2	11/2003	Huang	2003/0131703	A1	7/2003	Gass et al.
6,647,847	B2	11/2003	Hewitt et al.	2003/0140749	A1	7/2003	Gass et al.
6,659,233	B2	12/2003	DeVlieg	2004/0011177	A1	1/2004	Huang
6,684,750	B2	2/2004	Yu	2004/0040426	A1	3/2004	Gass et al.
6,722,242	B2	4/2004	Chuang	2004/0060404	A1	4/2004	Metzger, Jr.
6,734,581	B1	5/2004	Griffis	2004/0104085	A1	6/2004	Lang et al.
6,736,042	B2	5/2004	Behne et al.	2004/0159198	A1	8/2004	Peot et al.
6,742,430	B2	6/2004	Chen	2004/0194594	A1	10/2004	Dils et al.
6,796,208	B1	9/2004	Jorgensen	2004/0200329	A1	10/2004	Sako
6,800,819	B2	10/2004	Sato et al.	2004/0226424	A1	11/2004	O'Banion et al.
6,826,988	B2	12/2004	Gass et al.	2004/0226800	A1	11/2004	Pierga et al.
6,826,992	B1	12/2004	Huang	2004/0255745	A1	12/2004	Peot et al.
6,840,144	B2	1/2005	Huang	2005/0057206	A1	3/2005	Uneyama
6,854,371	B2	2/2005	Yu	2005/0066784	A1	3/2005	Gass
6,857,345	B2	2/2005	Gass et al.	2005/0092149	A1	5/2005	Hartmann
6,874,397	B2	4/2005	Chang	2005/0139051	A1	6/2005	Gass et al.
6,874,399	B2	4/2005	Lee	2005/0139056	A1	6/2005	Gass et al.
6,877,410	B2	4/2005	Gass et al.	2005/0139057	A1	6/2005	Gass et al.
6,880,440	B2	4/2005	Gass et al.	2005/0139058	A1	6/2005	Gass et al.
6,883,397	B2	4/2005	Kimizuka	2005/0139459	A1	6/2005	Gass et al.
6,889,585	B1	5/2005	Harris et al.	2005/0155473	A1	7/2005	Gass
6,920,814	B2	7/2005	Gass et al.	2005/0166736	A1	8/2005	Gass et al.
6,945,148	B2	9/2005	Gass et al.	2005/0178259	A1	8/2005	Gass et al.
6,945,149	B2	9/2005	Gass et al.	2005/0204885	A1	9/2005	Gass et al.
6,957,601	B2	10/2005	Gass et al.	2005/0211034	A1	9/2005	Sasaki et al.
6,968,767	B2	11/2005	Yu	2005/0235793	A1	10/2005	O'Banion et al.
6,986,370	B1	1/2006	Schoene et al.	2005/0274432	A1	12/2005	Gass et al.
6,994,004	B2	2/2006	Gass et al.	2006/0000337	A1	1/2006	Gass
6,997,090	B2	2/2006	Gass et al.	2006/0032352	A1	2/2006	Gass et al.
7,000,514	B2	2/2006	Gass et al.				
2002/0017175	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0017176	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0017178	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0017179	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0017180	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0017181	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0017182	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0017183	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0017184	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0017336	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0020261	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0020262	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0020263	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0020265	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0020271	A1	2/2002	Gass et al.				
2002/0043776	A1	4/2002	Chuang				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
DE		76186		8/1921			
DE		2800403		7/1979			
DE		3427733		1/1986			
DE		4235161	A1	5/1993			
DE		4326313		2/1995			
DE		19609771		6/1998			
EP		146460		11/1988			
ES		2152184		1/2001			
FR		2556643		6/1985			
FR		2570017		3/1986			
GB		598204		2/1948			
GB		1132708		11/1968			
GB		2096844		10/1982			

GB 2142571 1/1985

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Shop Fox® Fence Operating Manual, Woodstock International, Inc., 1996, revised May 1997.
 Excaliber T-Slot Precision Saw Fence Model TT45 Owner's Manual, Sommerville Design & Manufacturing, Inc., May 2000.
 Bosch Model 4000 Worksite Table Saw Operating/Safety Instructions, S-B Power Tool Company, Jul. 2000.
 XACTA Fence II™ Homeshop 30/52 Owner's Manual, Jet Equipment & Tools, Mar. 2001.
 XACTA Fence II™ Commercial 30/50 Owner's Manual, Jet Equipment & Tools, Mar. 2001.
 Bosch 10" Table Saw Model 0601476139 Parts List and Technical Bulletin, S-B Power Tool Company, Apr. 2001.
 Biesemeyer® T-Square® Universal Home Shop Fence system Instruction Manual, Delta Machinery, Jun. 1, 2001.
 Powermatic 10" Tilting Arbor Saw Model 66 Instruction Manual & Parts List, Jet Equipment & Tools, Jun. 2001.
 Skil Model 3400 Table Saw Operating/Safety Instructions, S-B Power Tool Company, Sep. 2001.
 The Merlin Splitter by Excalibur a Sommerville Design Product Overview & Generic Installation Notes, Sommerville Design & Manufacturing Inc., at least as early as 2002.

INCRA Incremental Micro Precision Table Saw Fence Owner's Manual, Taylor Design Group, Inc., 2003.
 Shop Fox® Models W2005, W2006, W2007 Classic Fence Instruction Manual, Woodstock International, Jan. 2000, revised Mar. 2004.
 ACCU-FENCE® 64A Fence and Rail System Owner's Manual, WMH Tool Group, Sep. 2004.
 Unifence™ Saw Guide Instruction Manual, Delta Machinery, Feb. 22, 2005.
 Biesemeyer® T-Square® Commercial Fence System Instruction Manual, Delta Machinery, May 2, 2005.
 Laguna Tools table saw owner's manual, date unknown.
 Analog Devices, Inc., 3-Axis Capacitive Sensor—Preliminary Technical Data AD7103, pp. 1-40, © 1998.
 Gordon Engineering Corp., Product Catalog, Oct. 1997, pp. cover, 1, 3 and back; Brookfield, Connecticut, US.
 U.S. Appl. No. 60/157,340, filed Oct. 1, 1999, entitled "Fast-Acting Safety Stop."
 U.S. Appl. No. 60/182,866, filed Feb. 16, 2000, entitled "Fast-Acting Safety Stop."
 IWF 2000 Challengers Award Official Entry Form, submitted Apr. 26, 2000, 6 pages plus CD (the portions of U.S. patent applications referenced in the form are from U.S. Appl. No. 60/157,340, filed Oct. 1, 1999 and U.S. Appl. No. 60/182,866, filed Feb. 16, 2000).
You Should Have Invented It, French television show CD.

* cited by examiner

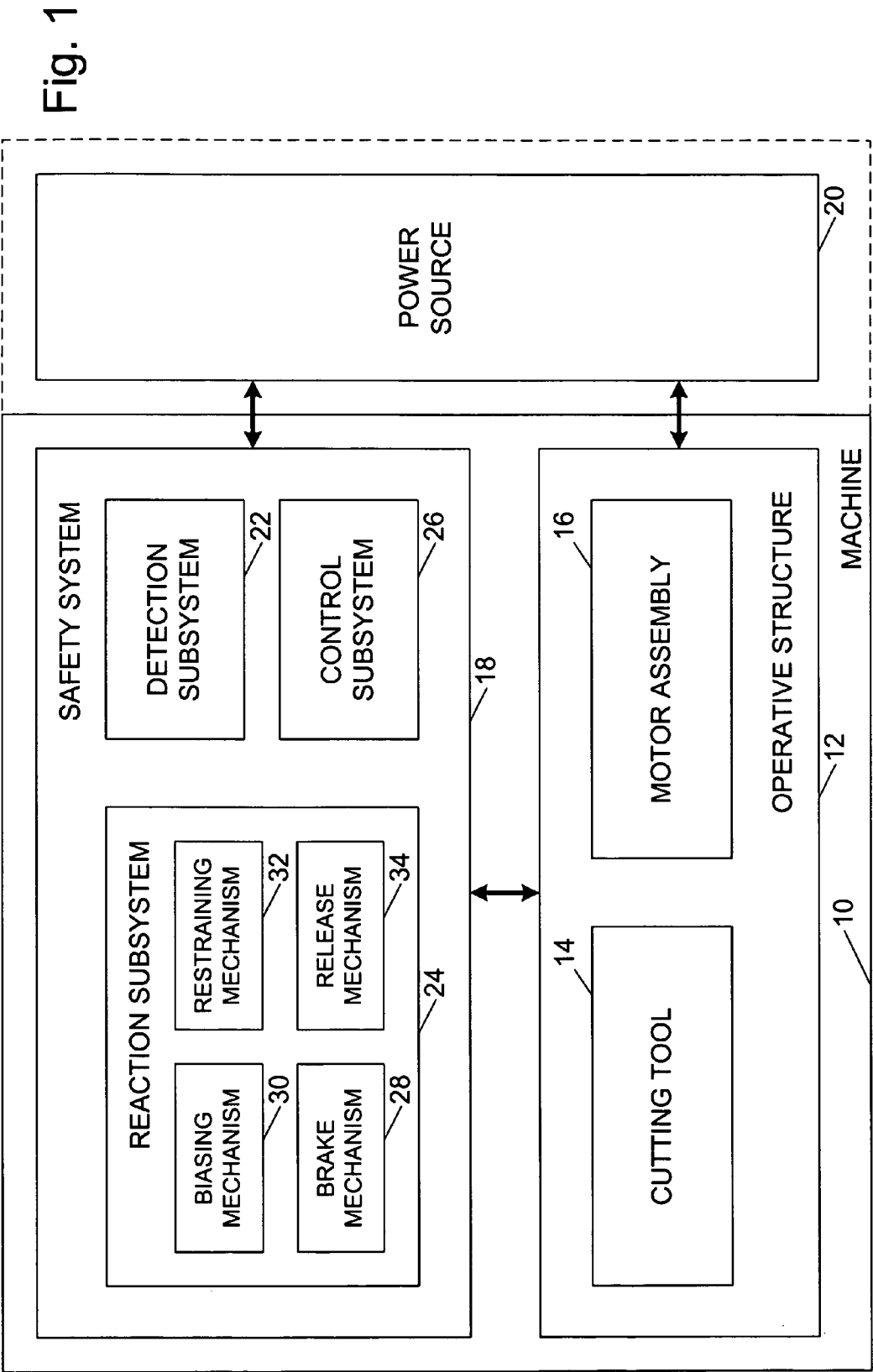
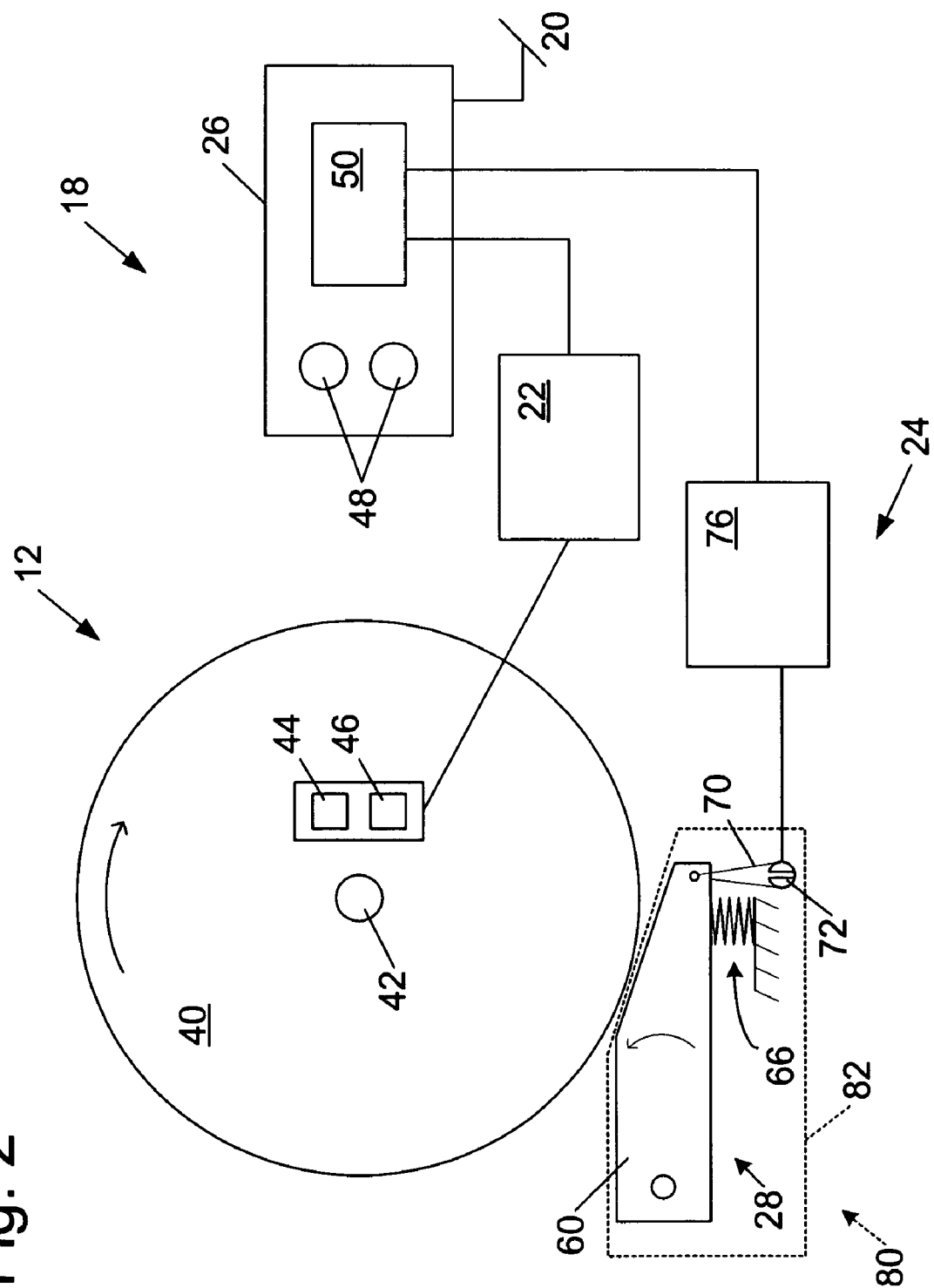


Fig. 2



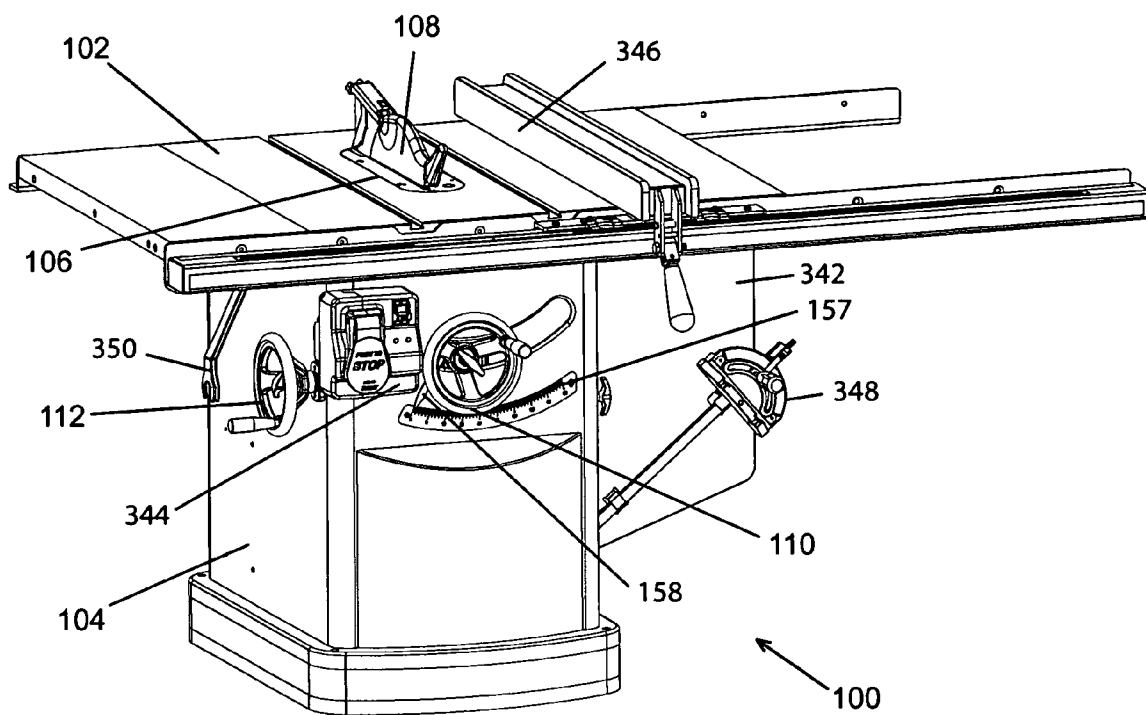


Fig. 3

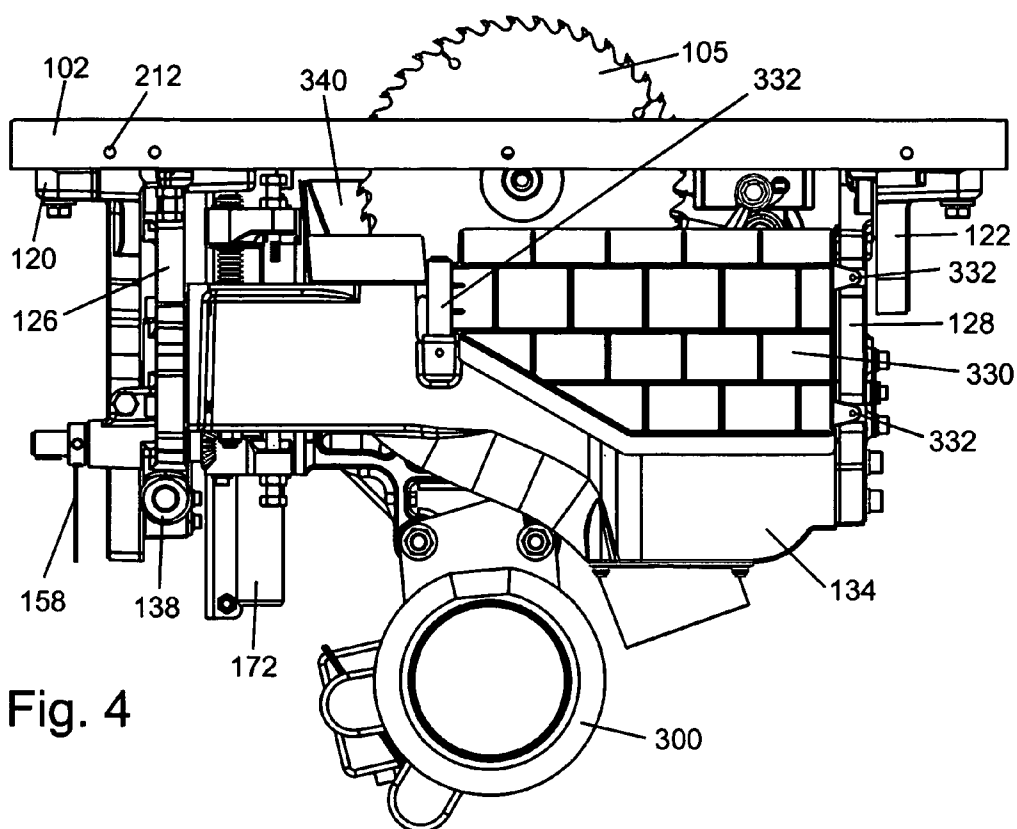


Fig. 4

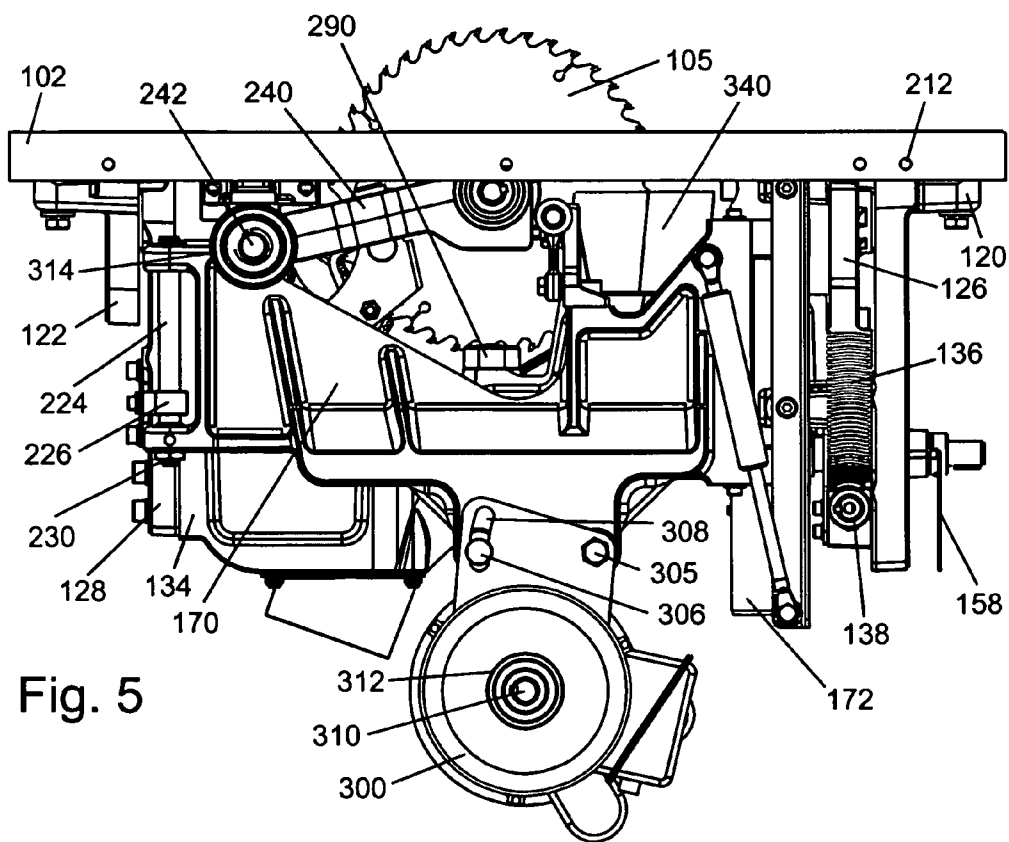


Fig. 5

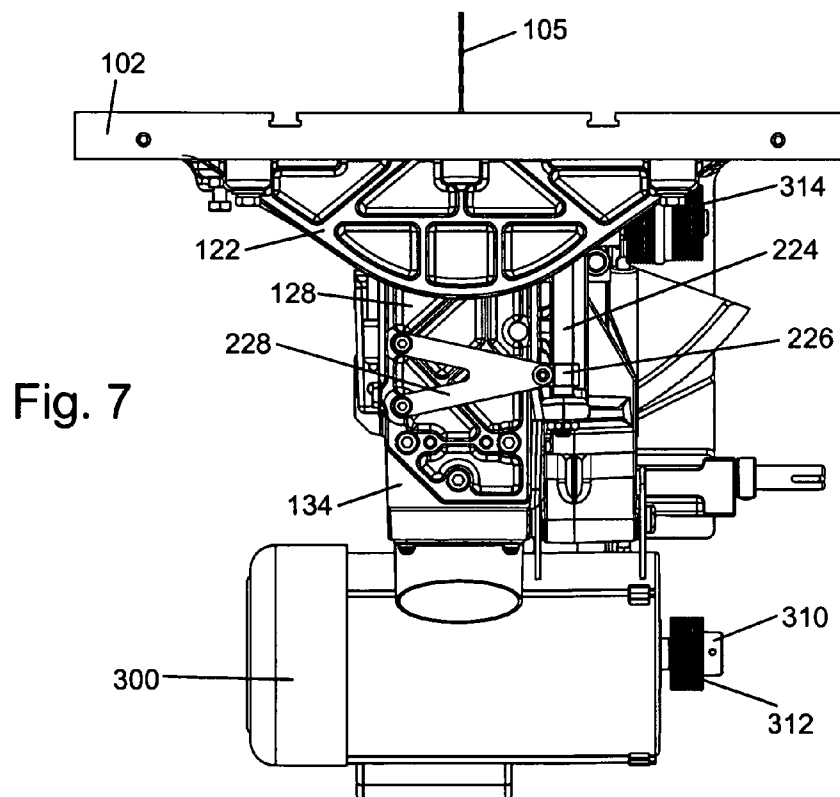
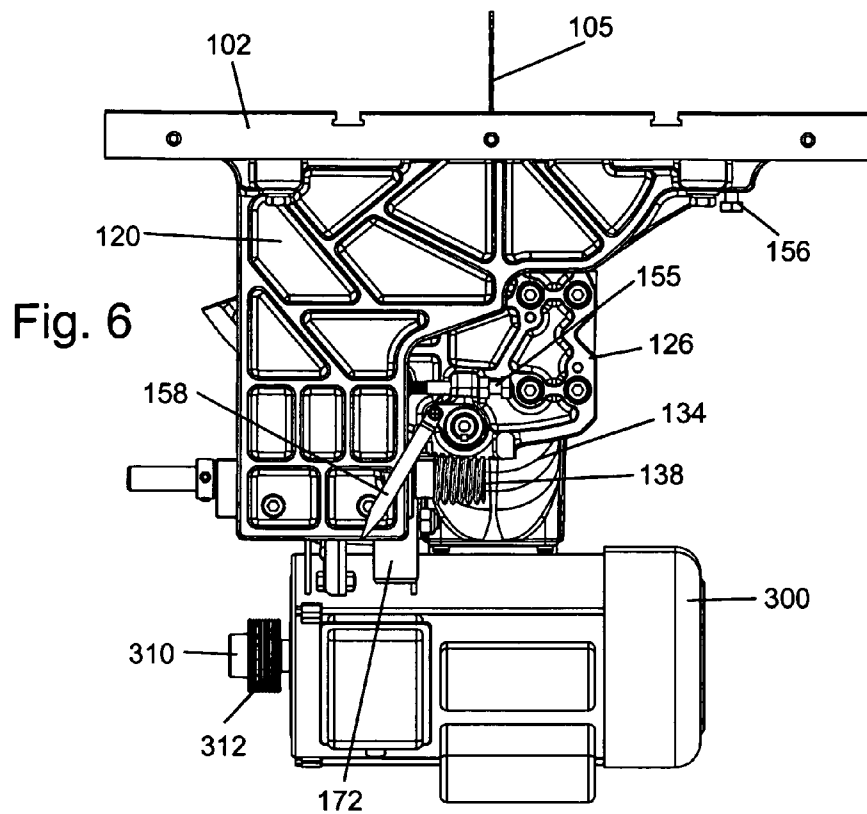


Fig. 8

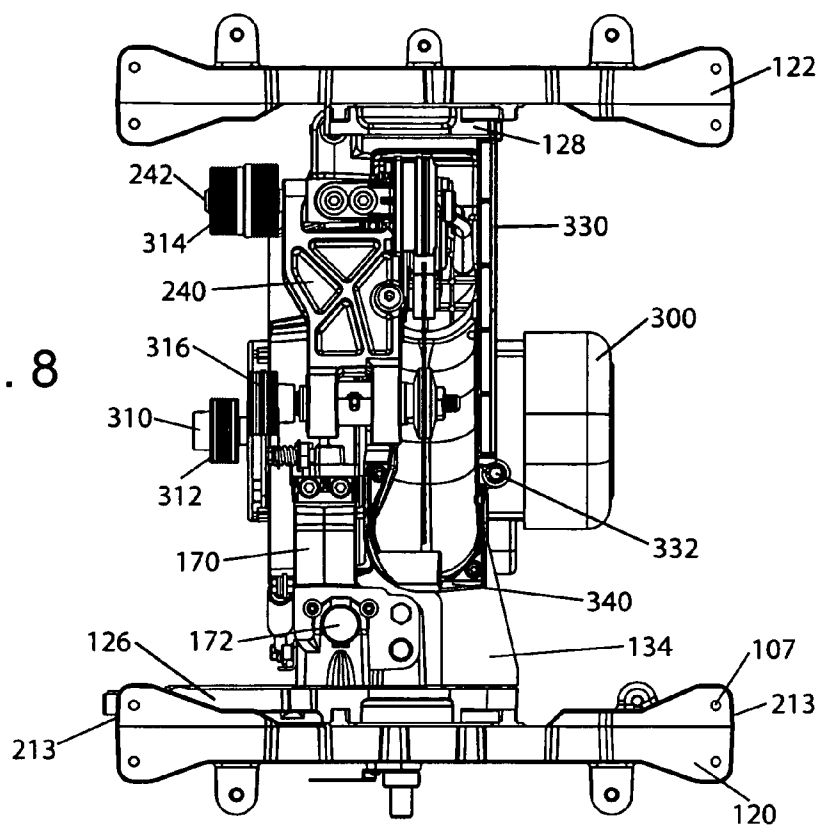
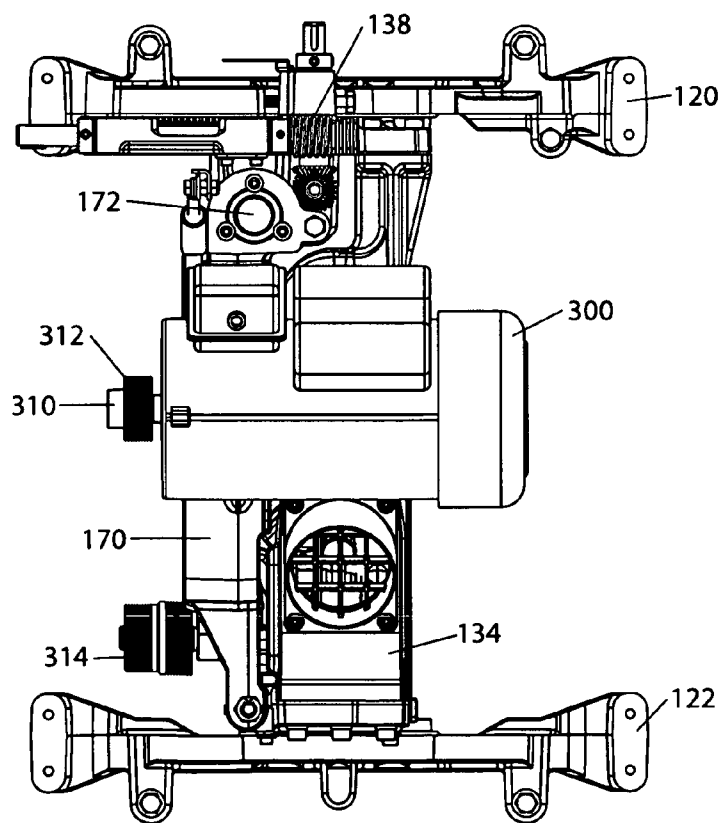
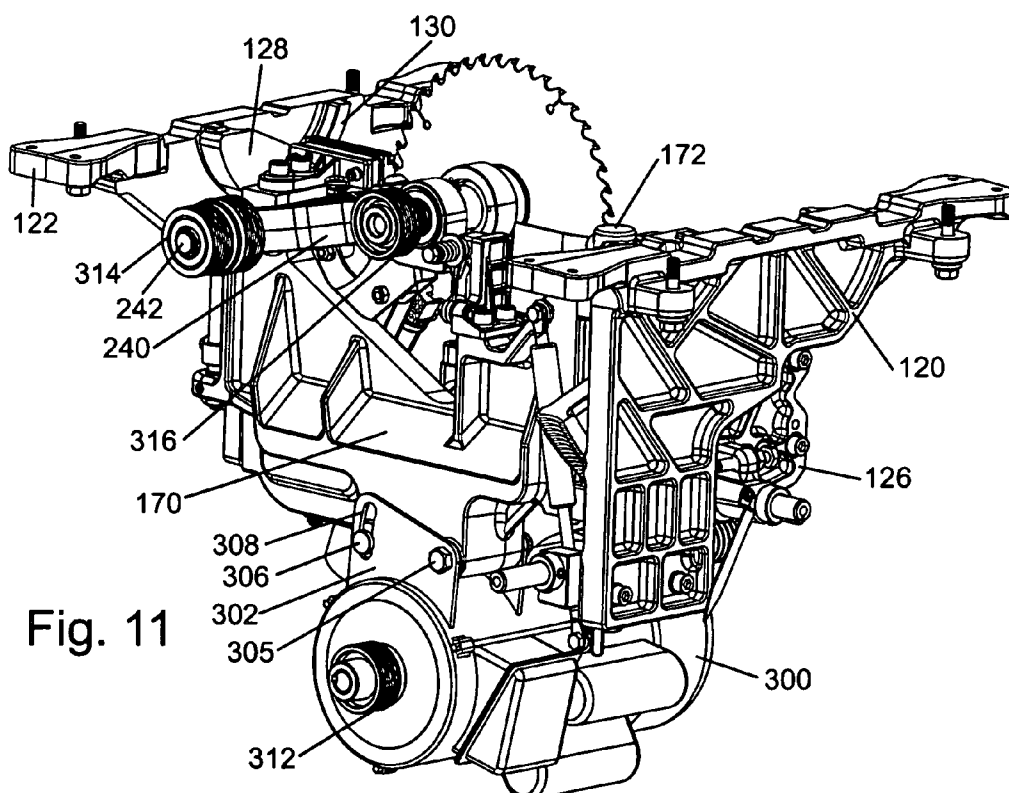
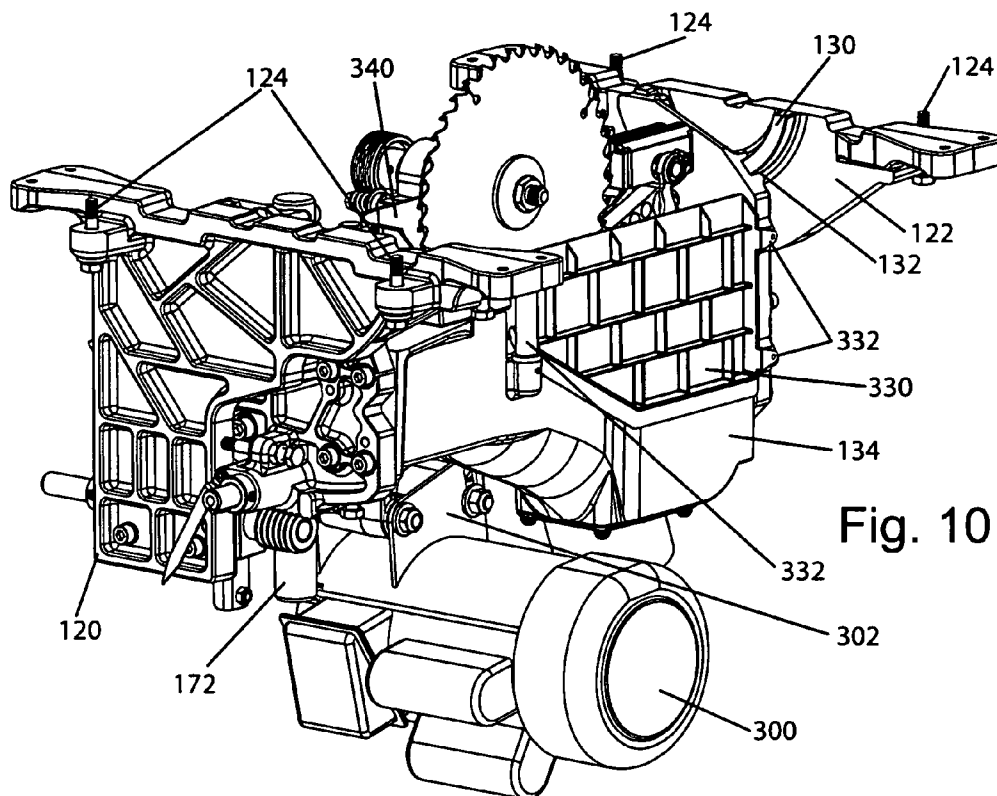


Fig. 9





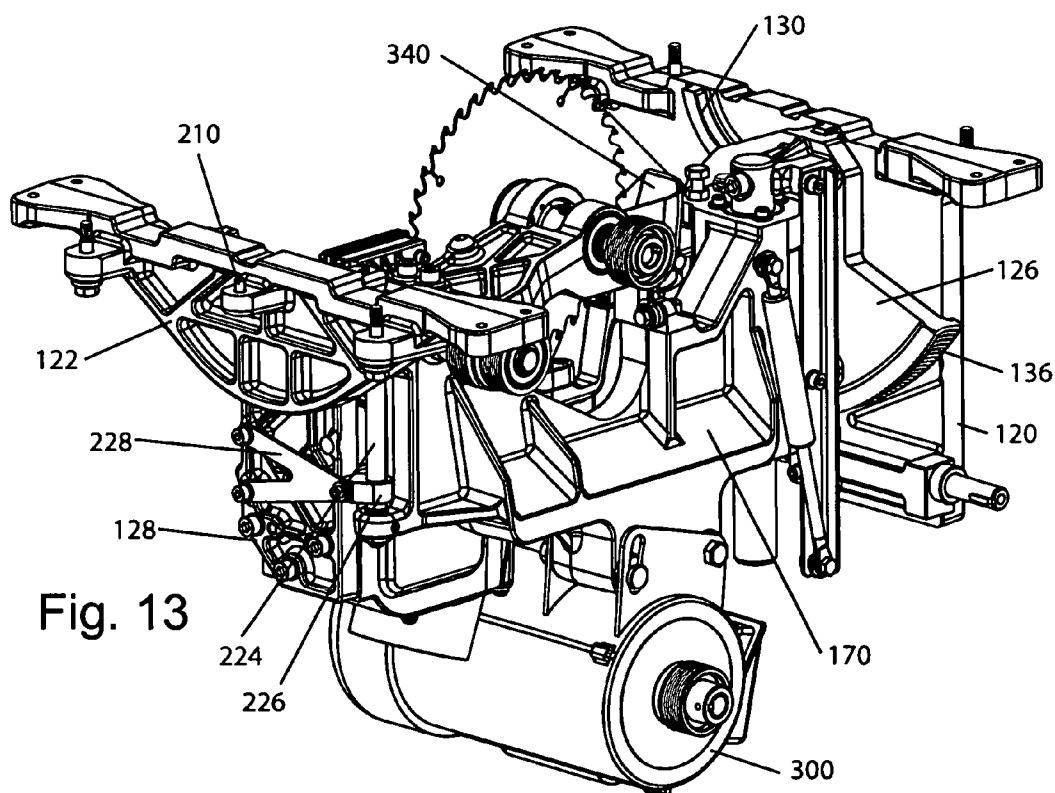
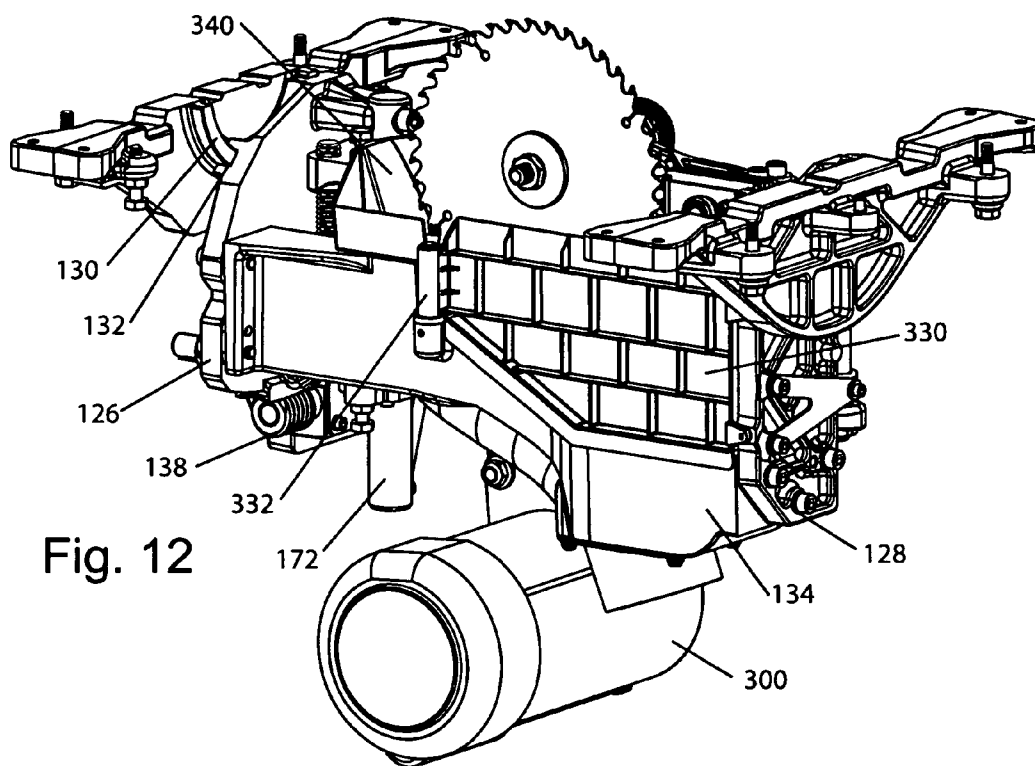


Fig. 14

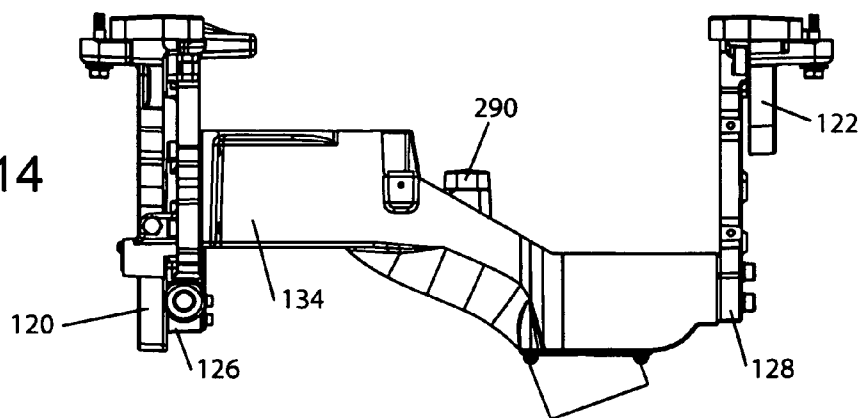


Fig. 15

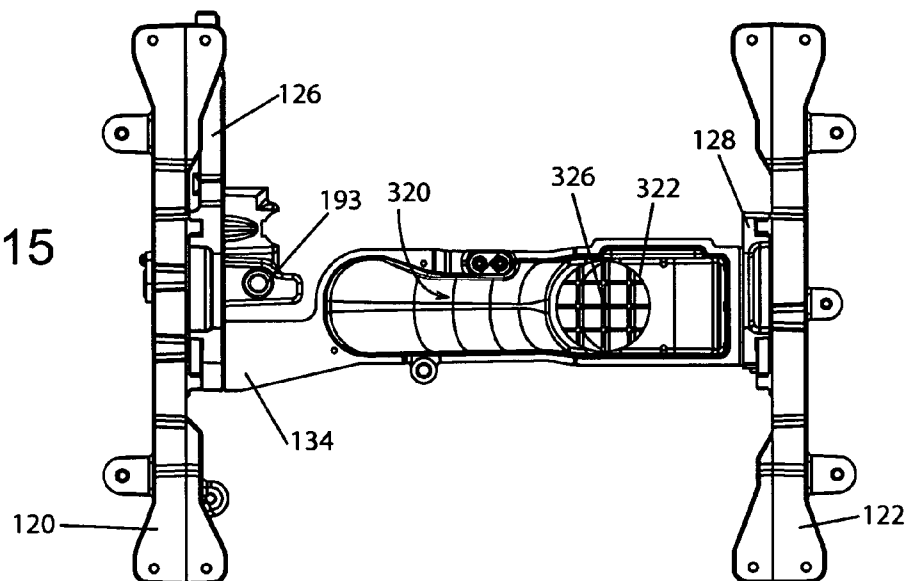
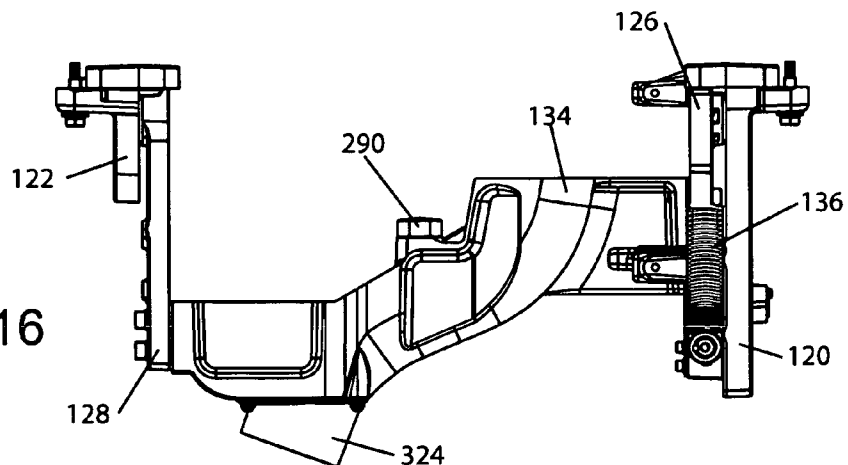


Fig. 16



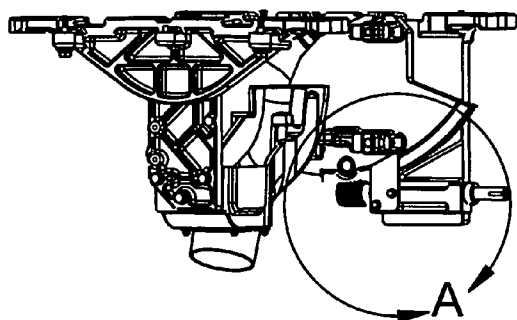


Fig. 17

Fig. 18
Detail A

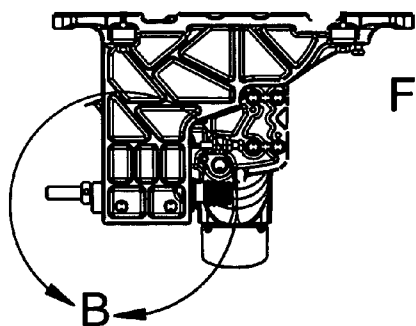
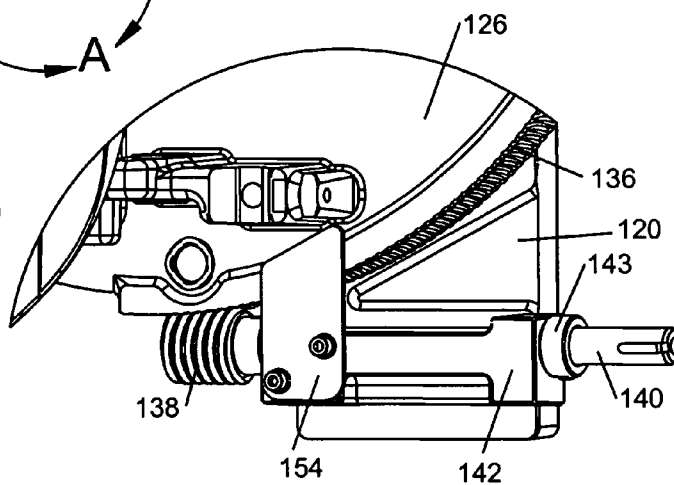


Fig. 19

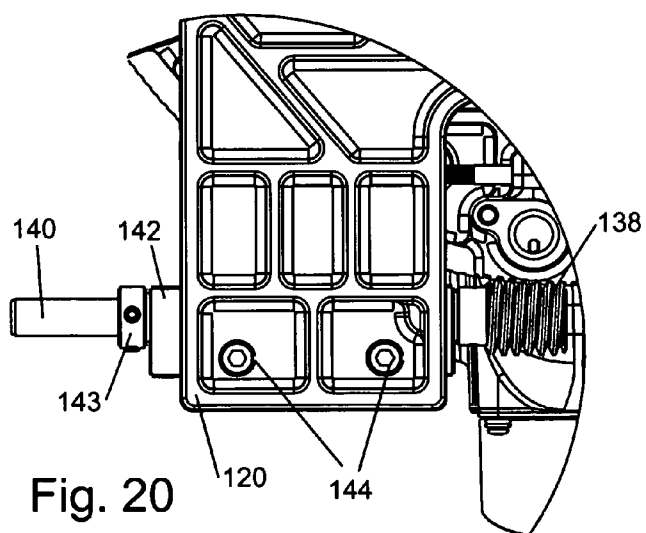


Fig. 20
Detail B

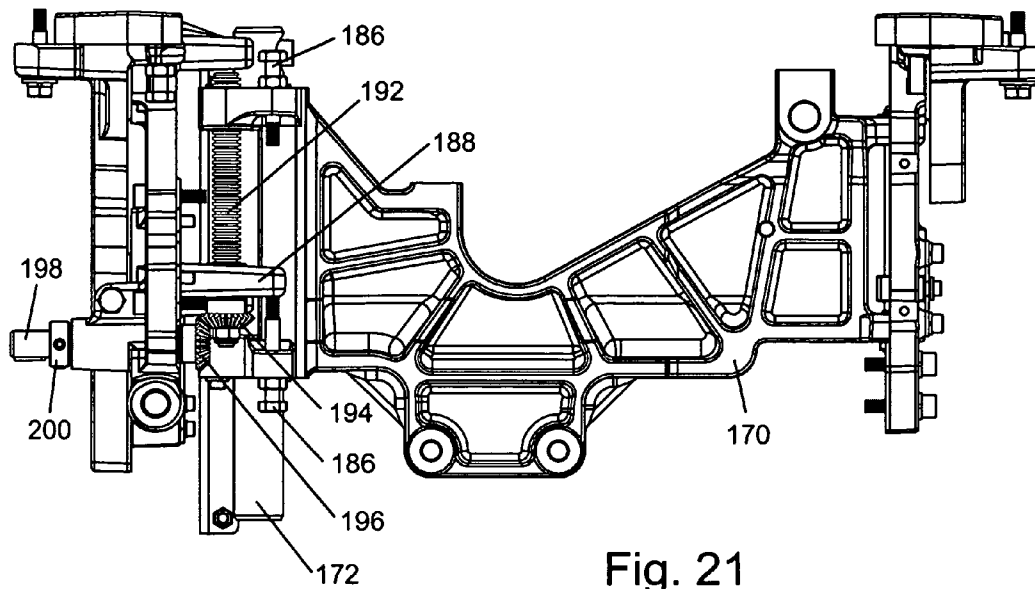


Fig. 21

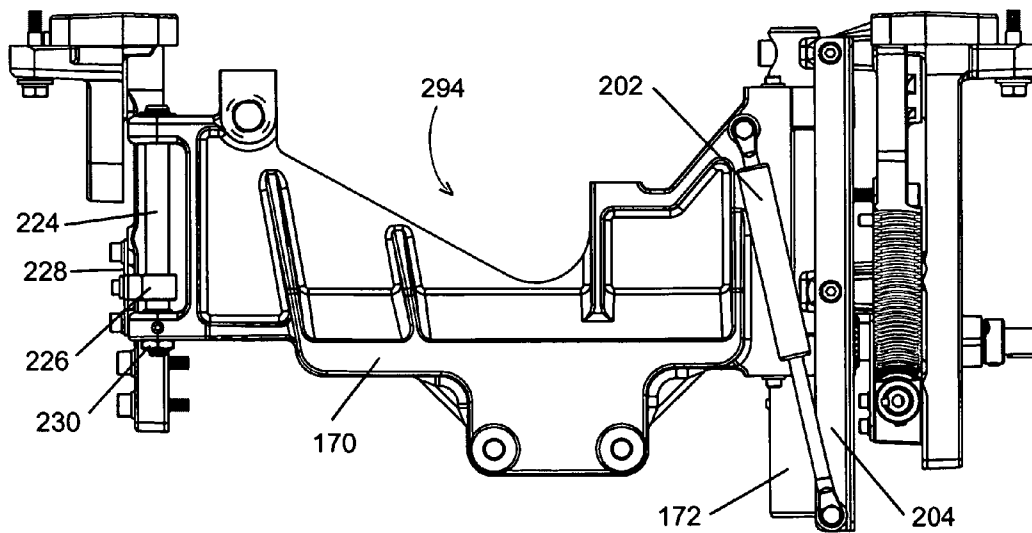


Fig. 22

Fig. 23

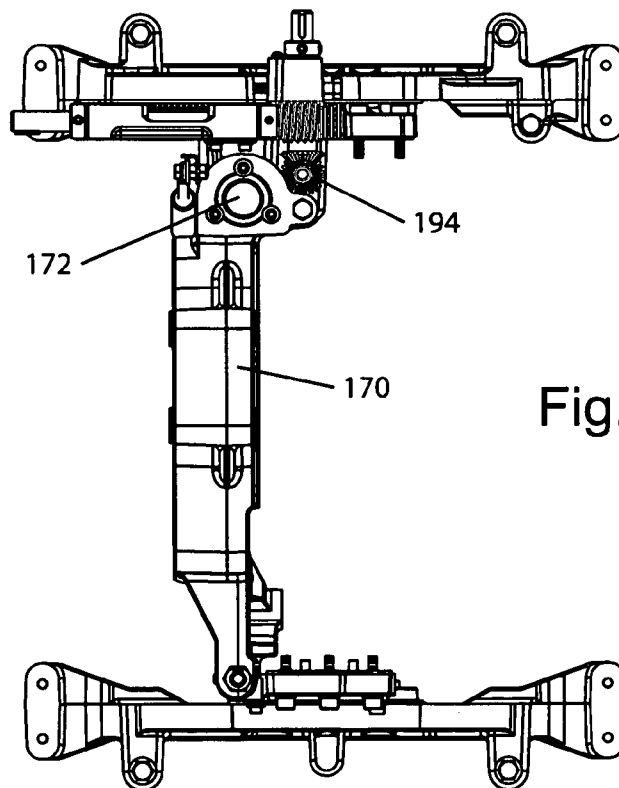
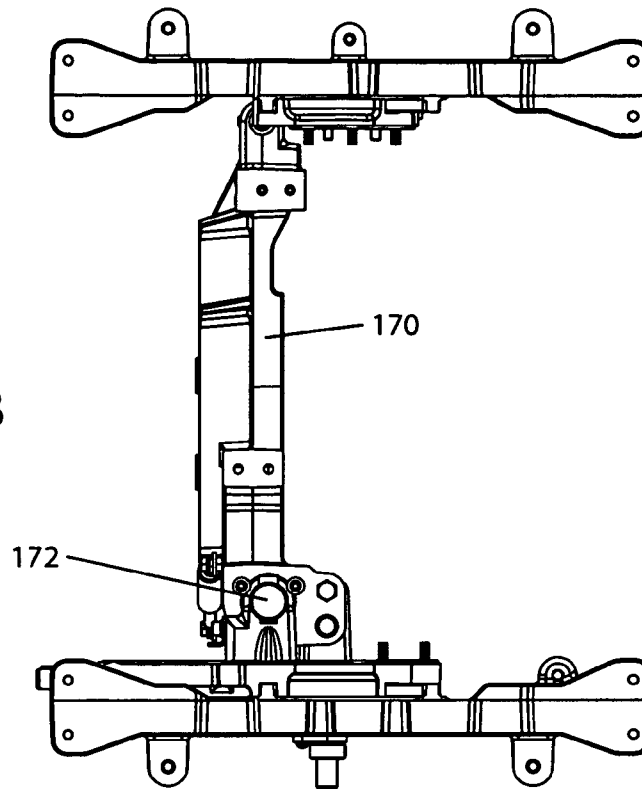


Fig. 24

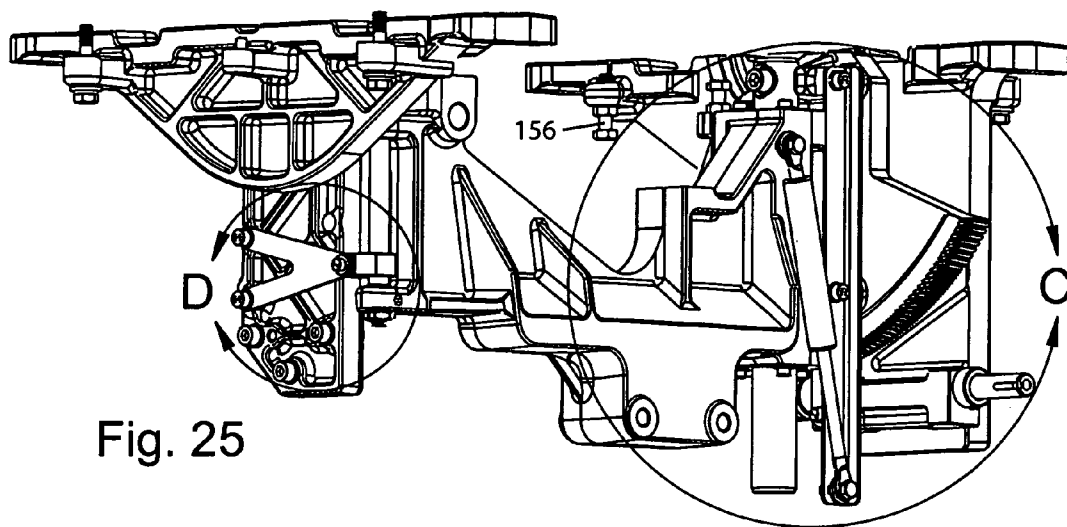


Fig. 25

Fig. 26
Detail C

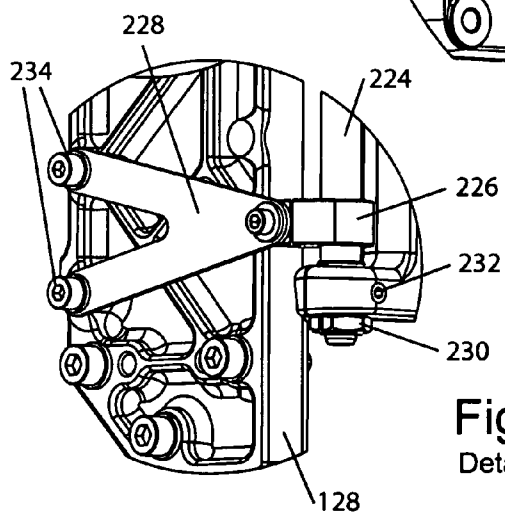
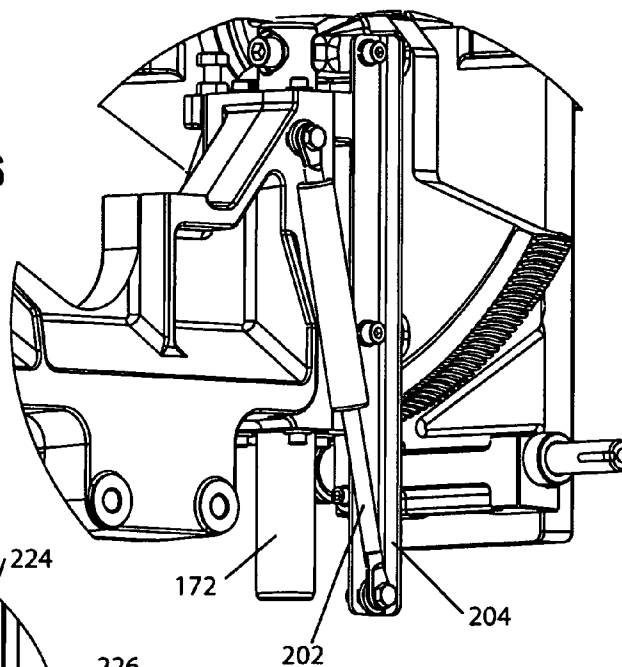
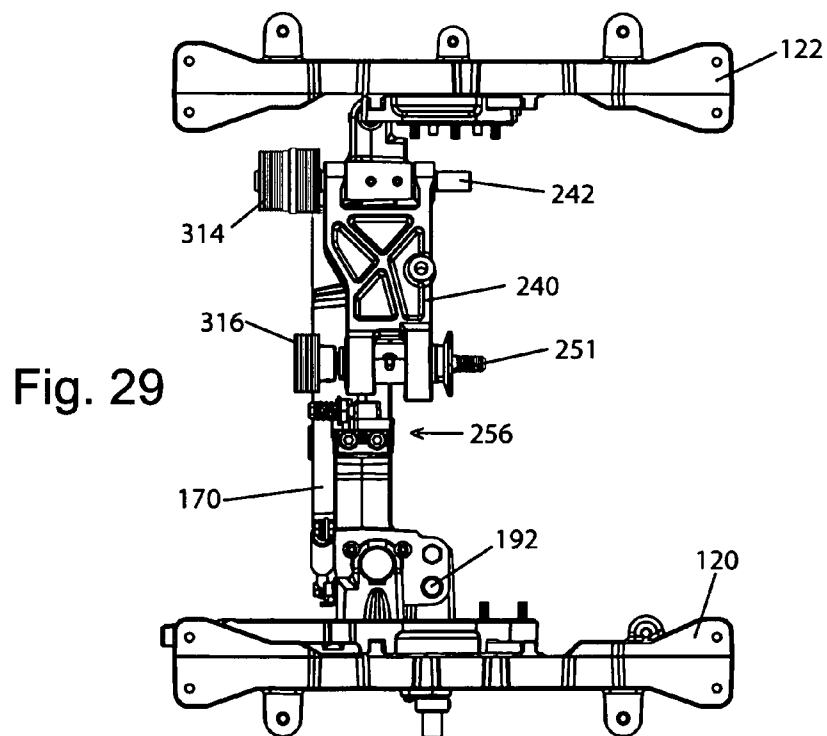
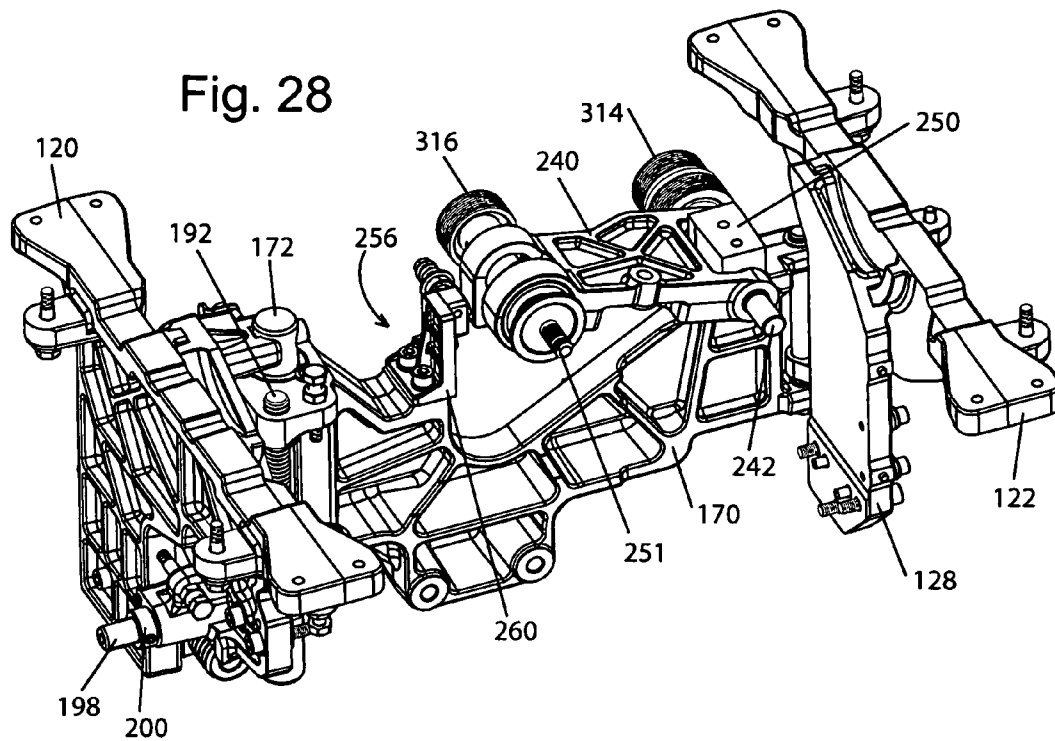


Fig. 27
Detail D



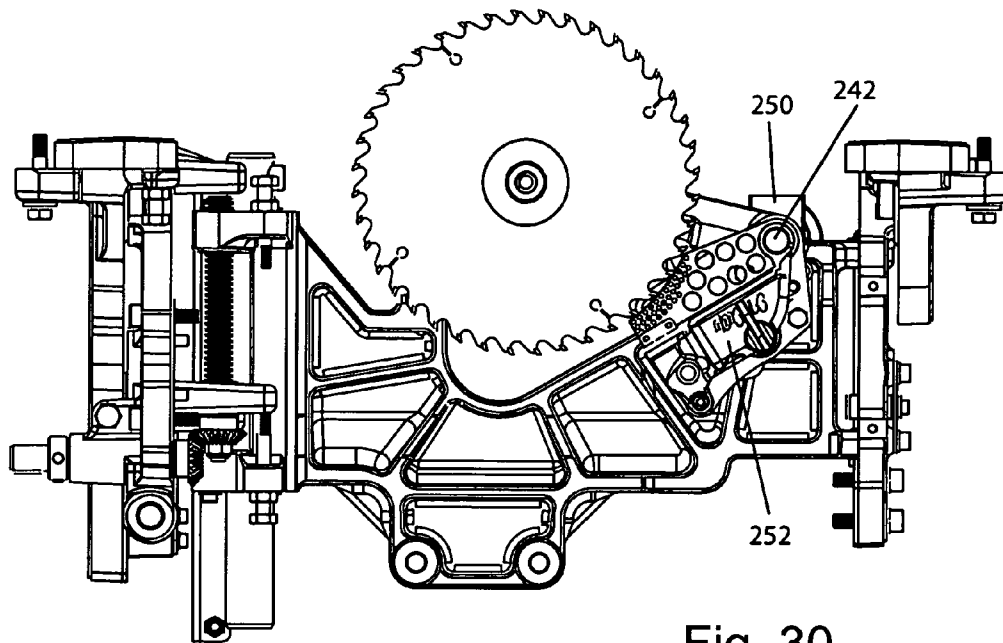


Fig. 30

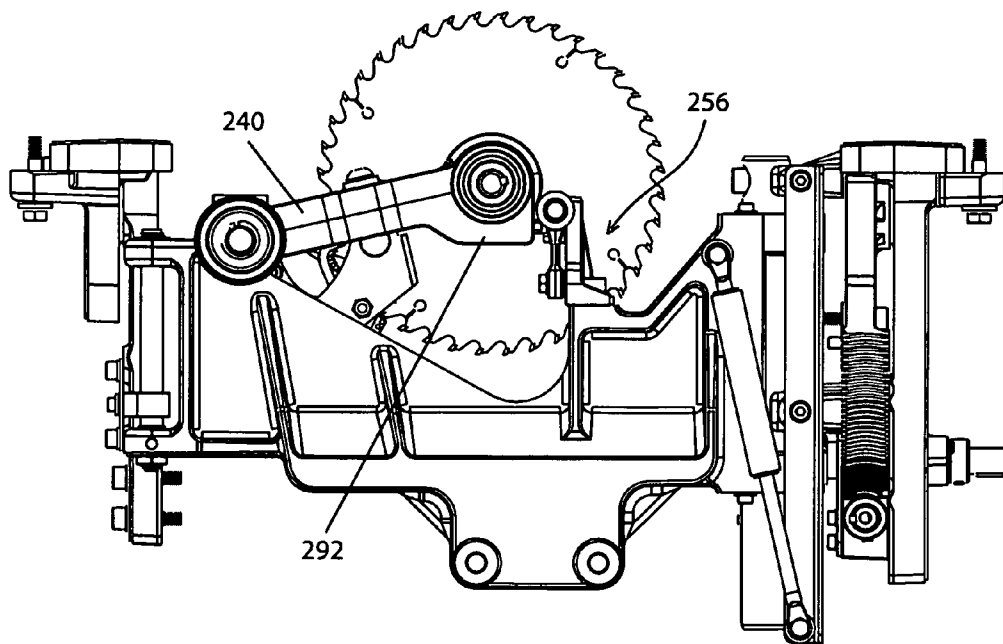


Fig. 31

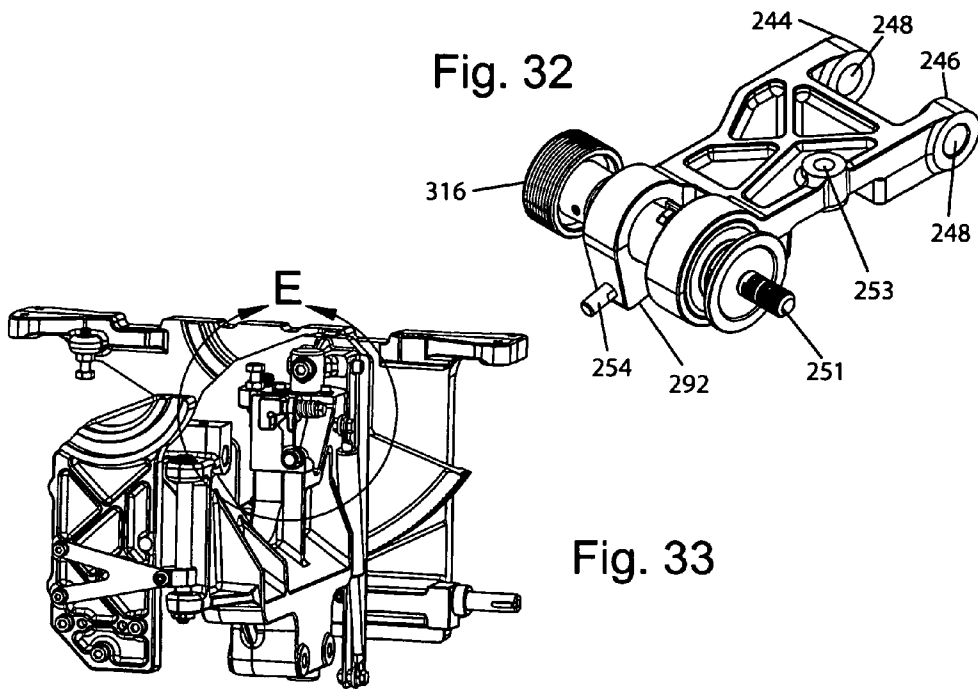
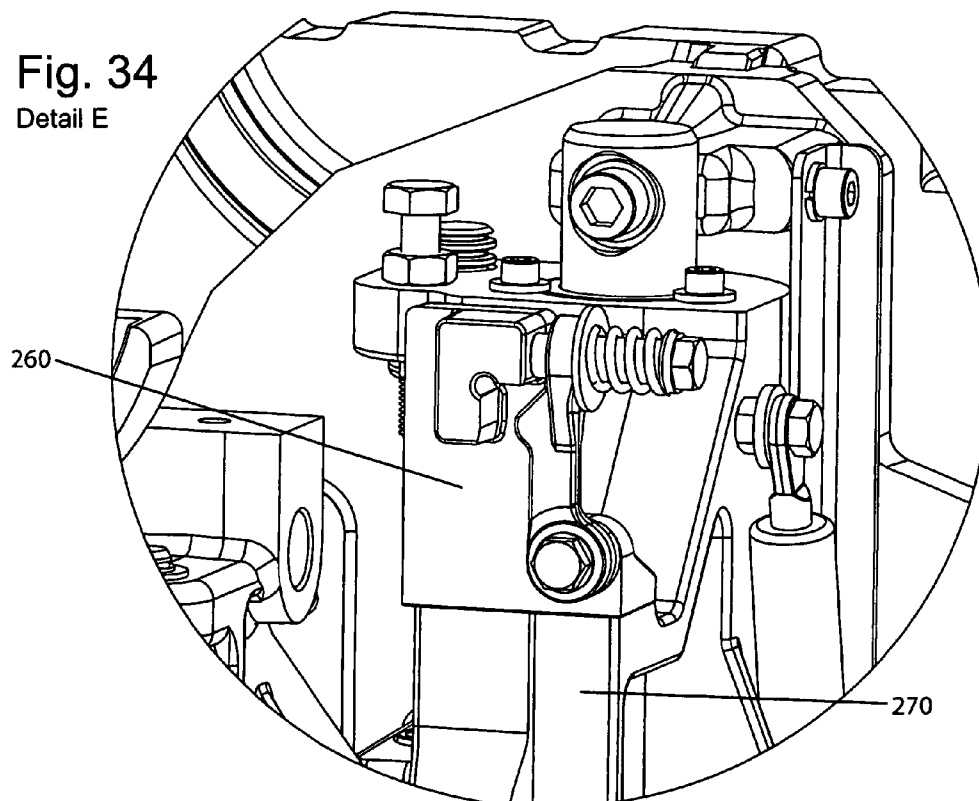
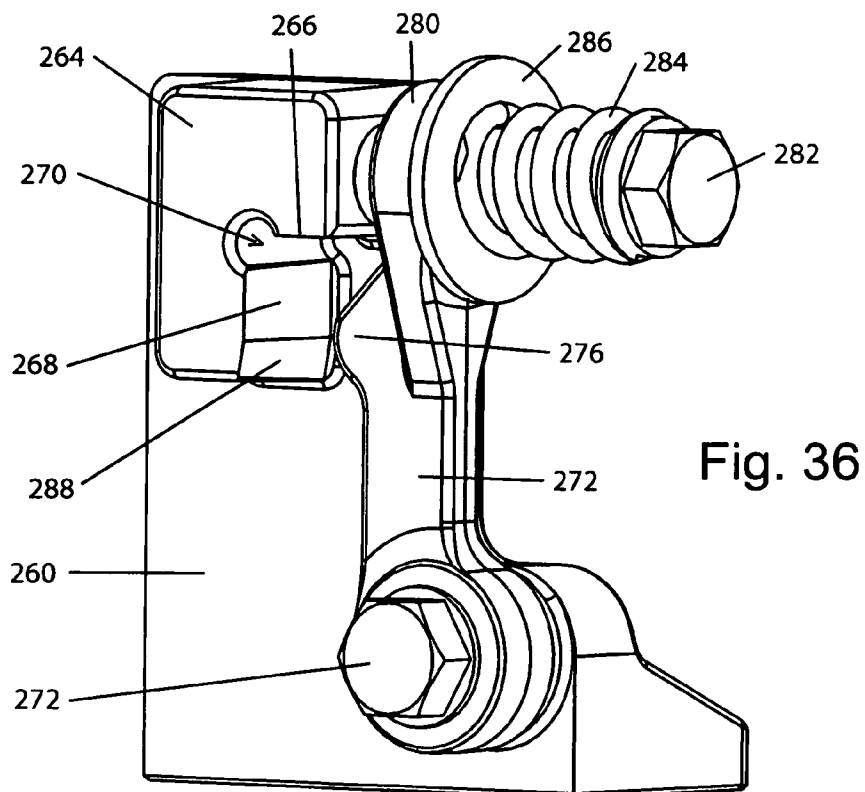
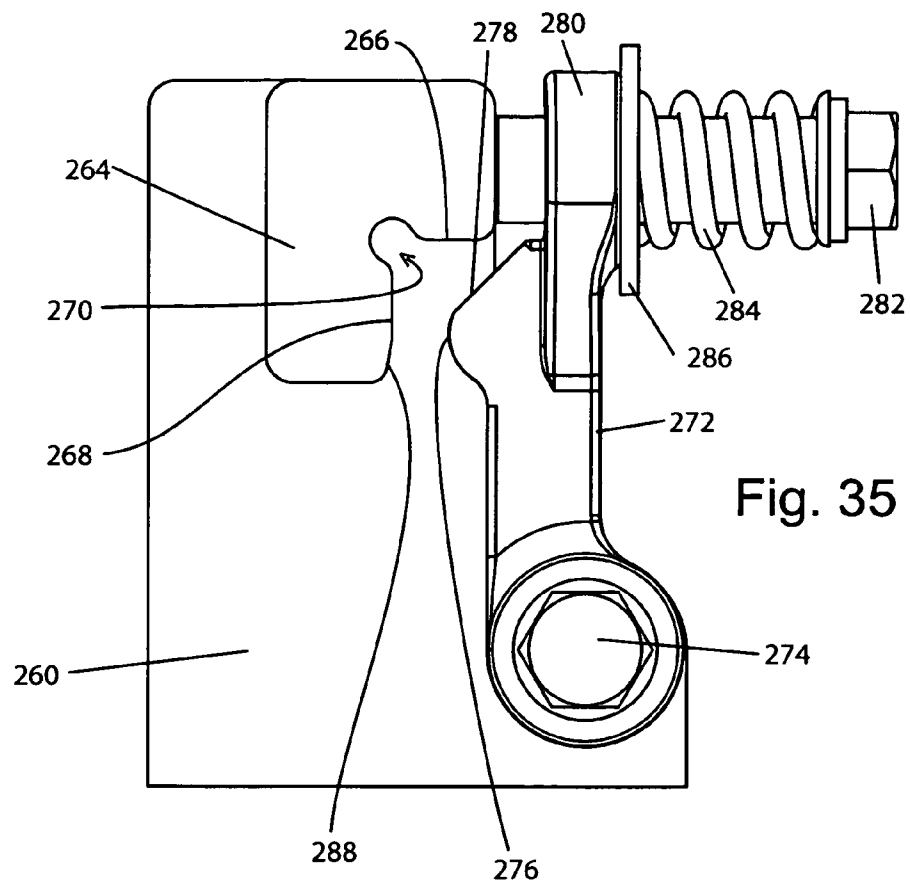


Fig. 34
Detail E





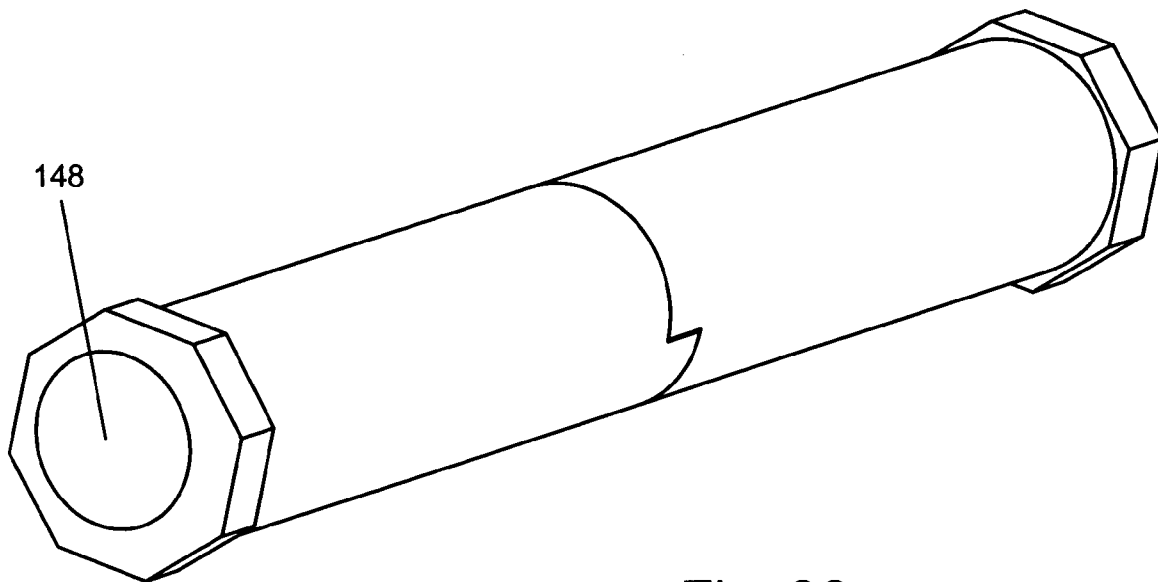
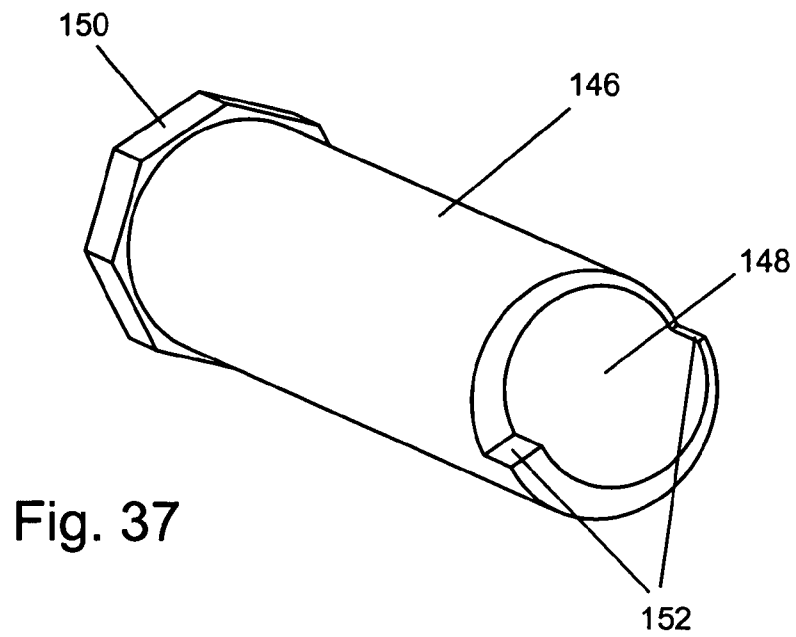


Fig. 38

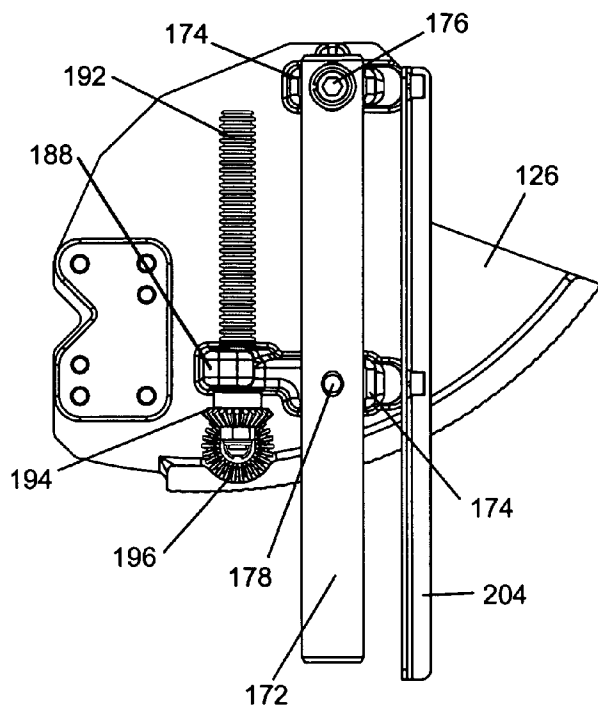


Fig. 39

Fig. 40

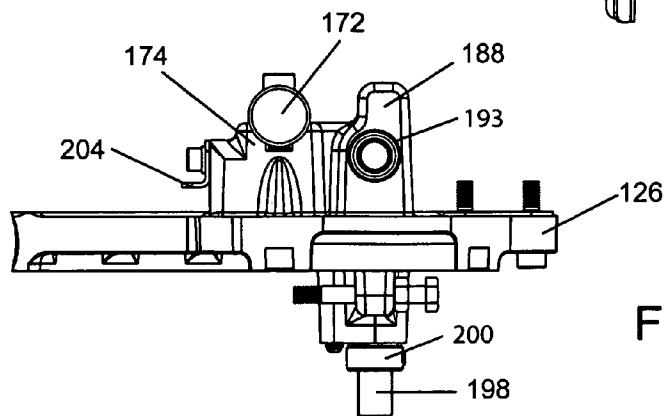
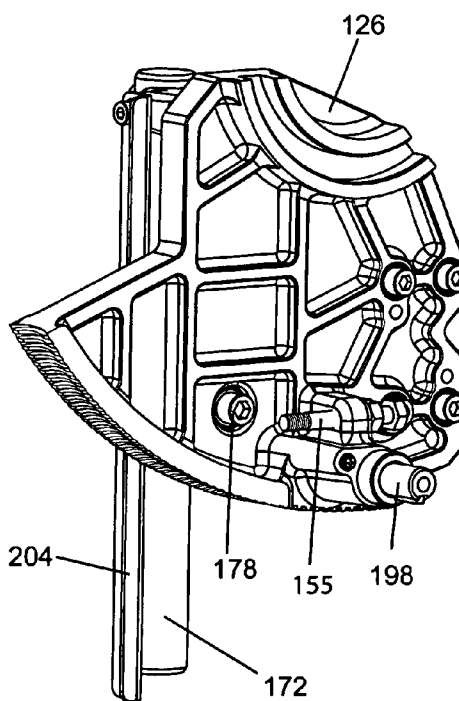
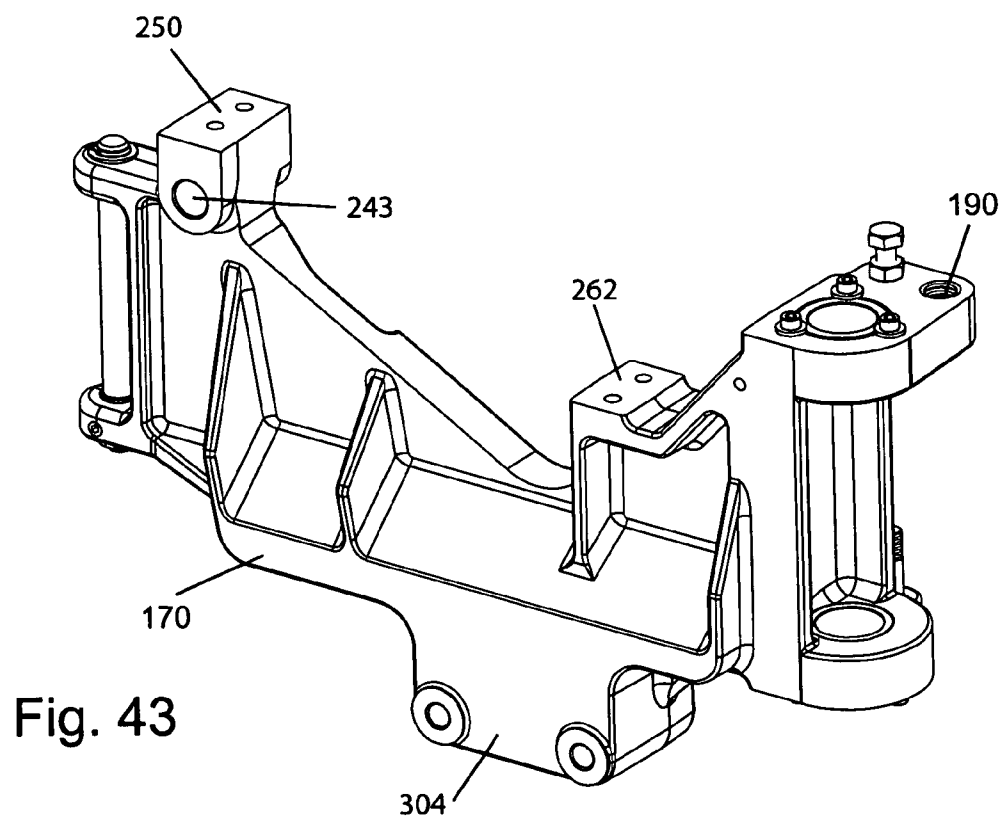
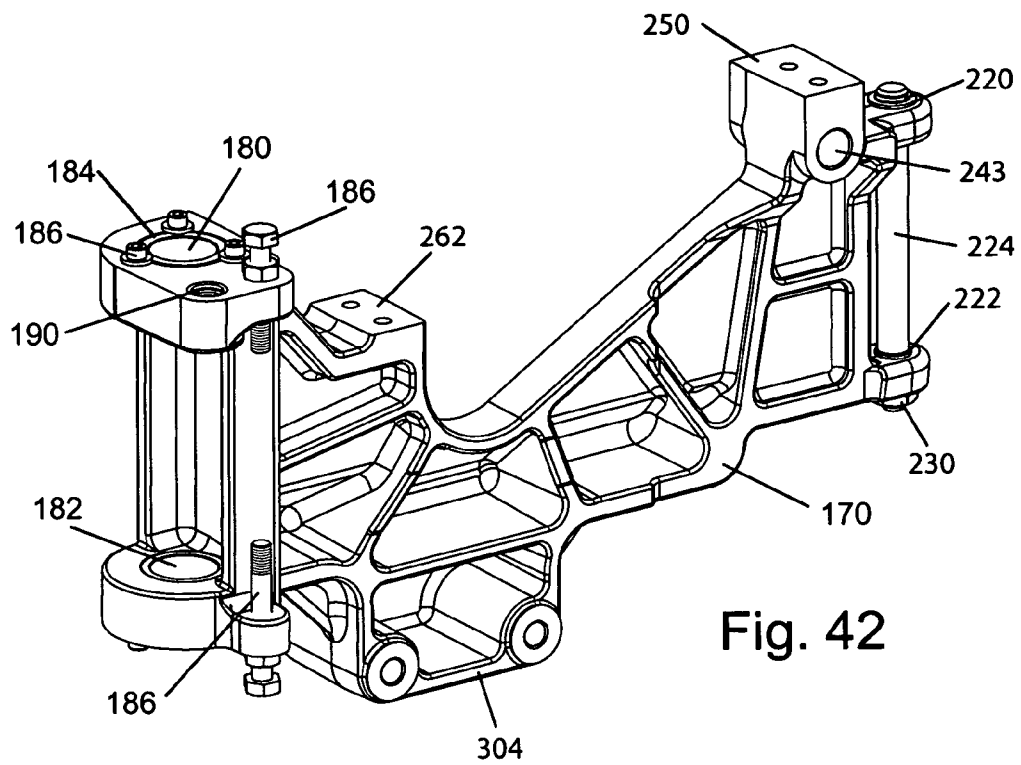


Fig. 41



1

TABLE SAWS WITH SAFETY SYSTEMS**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application claims the benefit of and priority from the following U.S. Provisional Patent Application, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference: Ser. No. 60/533, 811, filed Dec. 31, 2003.

FIELD

The present invention relates to table saws and more particularly to table saws with safety systems.

BACKGROUND

A table saw is a power tool used to cut a work piece to a desired size. A table saw includes a work surface or table and a circular blade extending up through the table. A person uses a table saw by holding a work piece on the table and feeding it past the spinning blade to make a cut. The table saw is one of the most basic machines used in woodworking.

The blade of a table saw, however, presents a risk of injury to a user of the saw. If the user accidentally places their hand in the path of the blade, or if their hand slips into the blade, then the user could receive a serious injury or amputation. Accidents also happen because of what is called kickback. Kickback may occur when a work piece contacts the downstream edge of the blade as it is being cut. The blade then propels the work piece back toward the user at a high velocity. When this happens, the user's hand may be carried into the blade because of the sudden and unexpected movement of the work piece.

Safety systems or features are incorporated into table saws to minimize the risk of injury. Probably the most common safety feature is a guard that physically blocks an operator from making contact with the blade. In many cases, guards effectively reduce the risk of injury, however, there are many instances where the nature of the operations to be performed precludes using a guard that completely blocks access to the blade.

Other safety systems have been developed to detect when a human body contacts a predetermined portion of a machine, such as detecting when a user's hand touches the moving blade on a saw. When that contact is detected, the safety systems react to minimize injury.

The present document discloses an improved design for a table saw. The design is particularly adapted to implement safety systems that detect and react to dangerous conditions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram of a machine with a fast-acting safety system.

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary safety system in the context of a machine having a circular blade.

FIG. 3 shows a table saw.

FIG. 4 shows a right-side view of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 shows a left-side view of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 6 shows a front view of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 7 shows a back view of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3.

2

FIG. 8 shows a top view of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3 with the table removed.

FIG. 9 shows a bottom view of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 10 shows a front-right perspective view of the internal mechanism of the saw with the table removed.

FIG. 11 shows a front-left perspective view of the internal mechanism of the saw with the table removed.

FIG. 12 shows a back-right perspective view of the internal mechanism of the saw.

FIG. 13 shows a back-left perspective view of the internal mechanism of the saw.

FIG. 14 shows a right-side view of a trunnion brace used in the saw shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 15 shows a top view of a trunnion brace used in the saw shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 16 shows a left-side view of a trunnion brace used in the saw shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 17 shows part of the internal mechanism of the saw with a portion labeled "A" designated for a detailed view.

FIG. 18 is the detail view of the portion labeled "A" in FIG. 17, showing part of a tilt control mechanism.

FIG. 19 shows part of the internal mechanism of the saw with a portion labeled "B" designated for a detailed view.

FIG. 20 is the detail view of the portion labeled "B" in FIG. 19, showing part of a tilt control mechanism.

FIG. 21 shows a right-side view of an elevation plate and elevation system.

FIG. 22 shows a left-side view of an elevation plate and elevation system.

FIG. 23 shows a top view of an elevation plate and elevation system.

FIG. 24 shows a bottom view of an elevation plate and elevation system.

FIG. 25 shows a perspective view of an elevation plate and elevation system with portions labeled "C" and "D" designated for detail views.

FIG. 26 is the detail view of the portion labeled "C" in FIG. 25, showing part of an elevation system.

FIG. 27 is the detail view of the portion labeled "D" in FIG. 25, showing part of an elevation system.

FIG. 28 is a perspective top view of part of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3, including an elevation plate and arbor assembly.

FIG. 29 is a bottom view of the components shown in FIG. 28.

FIG. 30 is a right-side view of part of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3, including an elevation plate, arbor assembly, brake cartridge and blade.

FIG. 31 is a left-side view of part of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3, including an elevation plate, arbor assembly, brake cartridge, blade and arbor block support mechanism.

FIG. 32 shows an arbor block and arbor used in the saw shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 33 shows a portion of the internal mechanism of the saw shown in FIG. 3, with a portion labeled "E" designated for a detail view.

FIG. 34 is the detail view of the portion labeled "E" in FIG. 33, showing an arbor block support mechanism.

FIG. 35 shows an arbor block support mechanism.

FIG. 36 also shows an arbor block support mechanism.

FIG. 37 shows an eccentric bushing.

FIG. 38 shows two eccentric bushings end-to-end.

FIG. 39 shows shafts used in the elevation system of the saw shown in FIG. 3.

3

FIG. 40 is a different view of the portion of the elevation system shown in FIG. 39.

FIG. 41 is a top view of the portion of the elevation system shown in FIG. 39.

FIG. 42 is a perspective, right-side view of an elevation plate.

FIG. 43 is a perspective, left-side view of the elevation plate shown in FIG. 42.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A machine that incorporates a safety system to detect and react to a dangerous condition, such as human contact with a designated portion of the machine, is shown schematically in FIG. 1 and indicated generally at 10. Machine 10 may be any of a variety of different machines, such as table saws, miter saws, band saws, jointers, shapers, routers, hand-held circular saws, up-cut saws, sanders, etc. Machine 10 includes an operative structure 12 having a working or cutting tool 14 and a motor assembly 16 adapted to drive the cutting tool. Machine 10 also includes a safety system 18 configured to minimize the potential of a serious injury to a person using the machine. Safety system 18 is adapted to detect the occurrence of one or more dangerous conditions during use of the machine. If such a dangerous condition is detected, safety system 18 is adapted to engage operative structure 12 to limit any injury to the user caused by the dangerous condition.

Machine 10 also includes a suitable power source 20 to provide power to operative structure 12 and safety system 18. Power source 20 may be an external power source such as line current, or an internal power source such as a battery. Alternatively, power source 20 may include a combination of both external and internal power sources. Furthermore, power source 20 may include two or more separate power sources, each adapted to power different portions of machine 10.

It will be appreciated that operative structure 12 may take any one of many different forms. For example, operative structure 12 may include a stationary housing configured to support motor assembly 16 in driving engagement with cutting tool 14. Alternatively, operative structure 12 may include one or more transport mechanisms adapted to convey a work piece toward and/or away from cutting tool 14.

Motor assembly 16 includes at least one motor adapted to drive cutting tool 14. The motor may be either directly or indirectly coupled to the cutting tool, and may also be adapted to drive work piece transport mechanisms. The particular form of cutting tool 14 will vary depending upon the various embodiments of machine 10. For example, cutting tool 14 may be a single, circular rotating blade having a plurality of teeth disposed along the perimetrical edge of the blade. Alternatively, the cutting tool may be a plurality of circular blades, such as a dado blade or dado stack, or some other type of blade or working tool.

Safety system 18 includes a detection subsystem 22, a reaction subsystem 24 and a control subsystem 26. Control subsystem 26 may be adapted to receive inputs from a variety of sources including detection subsystem 22, reaction subsystem 24, operative structure 12 and motor assembly 16. The control subsystem may also include one or more sensors adapted to monitor selected parameters of machine 10. In addition, control subsystem 26 typically includes one or more instruments operable by a user to control the machine. The control subsystem is configured to control machine 10 in response to the inputs it receives.

Detection subsystem 22 is configured to detect one or more dangerous or triggering conditions during use of machine 10. For example, the detection subsystem may be configured to

4

detect that a portion of the user's body is dangerously close to or in contact with a portion of cutting tool 14. As another example, the detection subsystem may be configured to detect the rapid movement of a workpiece due to kickback by the cutting tool, as is described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/676,190, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference. In some embodiments, detection subsystem 22 may inform control subsystem 26 of the dangerous condition, which then activates reaction subsystem 24. In other embodiments, the detection subsystem may be adapted to activate the reaction subsystem directly.

Once activated in response to a dangerous condition, reaction subsystem 24 is configured to engage operative structure 12 quickly to prevent serious injury to the user. It will be appreciated that the particular action to be taken by reaction subsystem 24 will vary depending on the type of machine 10 and/or the dangerous condition that is detected. For example, reaction subsystem 24 may be configured to do one or more of the following: stop the movement of cutting tool 14, disconnect motor assembly 16 from power source 20, place a barrier between the cutting tool and the user, or retract the cutting tool from its operating position, etc. The reaction subsystem may be configured to take a combination of steps to protect the user from serious injury. Placement of a barrier between the cutting tool and teeth is described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017183 A1, entitled "Cutting Tool Safety System," the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference. Retracting the cutting tool is described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017181 A1, entitled "Retraction System for Use in Power Equipment," and U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 60/452,159, filed Mar. 5, 2003, entitled "Retraction System and Motor Position for Use With Safety Systems for Power Equipment," the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

The configuration of reaction subsystem 24 typically will vary depending on which action or actions are taken. In the exemplary embodiment depicted in FIG. 1, reaction subsystem 24 is configured to stop the movement of cutting tool 14 and includes a brake mechanism 28, a biasing mechanism 30, a restraining mechanism 32, and a release mechanism 34. Brake mechanism 28 is adapted to engage operative structure 12 under the urging of biasing mechanism 30. During normal operation of machine 10, restraining mechanism 32 holds the brake mechanism out of engagement with the operative structure. However, upon receipt of an activation signal by reaction subsystem 24, the brake mechanism is released from the restraining mechanism by release mechanism 34, whereupon, the brake mechanism quickly engages at least a portion of the operative structure to bring the cutting tool to a stop.

It will be appreciated by those of skill in the art that the exemplary embodiment depicted in FIG. 1 and described above may be implemented in a variety of ways depending on the type and configuration of operative structure 12. Turning attention to FIG. 2, one example of the many possible implementations of safety system 18 is shown. System 18 is configured to engage an operative structure having a circular blade 40 mounted on a rotating shaft or arbor 42. Blade 40 includes a plurality of cutting teeth (not shown) disposed around the outer edge of the blade. As described in more detail below, braking mechanism 28 is adapted to engage the teeth of blade 40 and stop the rotation of the blade. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017175 A1, entitled "Translation Stop For Use In Power Equipment," the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference, describes other systems for stopping the movement of the cutting tool. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017184 A1,

entitled "Table Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017179 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0059855 A1, entitled "Miter Saw with Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0056350 A1, entitled "Table Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0059854 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0056349 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0056348 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0066346 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0015253 A1, entitled "Router With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0170400 A1, entitled "Band Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0019341 A1, entitled "Safety Systems for Band Saws," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0056853 A1, entitled "Router With Improved Safety System," U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/406,138, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/496,550, entitled "Table Saws With Safety Systems," the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference, describe safety system **18** in the context of particular types of machines.

In the exemplary implementation, detection subsystem **22** is adapted to detect the dangerous condition of the user coming into contact with blade **40**. The detection subsystem includes a sensor assembly, such as contact detection plates **44** and **46**, capacitively coupled to blade **40** to detect any contact between the user's body and the blade. Typically, the blade, or some larger portion of cutting tool **14** is electrically isolated from the remainder of machine **10**. Alternatively, detection subsystem **22** may include a different sensor assembly configured to detect contact in other ways, such as optically, resistively, etc. In any event, the detection subsystem is adapted to transmit a signal to control subsystem **26** when contact between the user and the blade is detected. Various exemplary embodiments and implementations of detection subsystem **22** are described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017176 A1, entitled "Detection System For Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017336 A1, entitled "Apparatus And Method For Detecting Dangerous Conditions In Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069734 A1, entitled "Contact Detection System for Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0190581 A1, entitled "Apparatus and Method for Detecting Dangerous Conditions in Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0002942 A1, entitled "Discrete Proximity Detection System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0090224 A1, entitled "Detection System for Power Equipment," and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/533,791, entitled "Improved Detection Systems for Power Equipment," the disclosures of which are all herein incorporated by reference.

Control subsystem **26** includes one or more instruments **48** that are operable by a user to control the motion of blade **40**. Instruments **48** may include start/stop switches, speed controls, direction controls, light-emitting diodes, etc. Control subsystem **26** also includes a logic controller **50** connected to receive the user's inputs via instruments **48**. Logic controller

50 is also connected to receive a contact detection signal from detection subsystem **22**. Further, the logic controller may be configured to receive inputs from other sources (not shown) such as blade motion sensors, work piece sensors, etc. In any event, the logic controller is configured to control operative structure **12** in response to the user's inputs through instruments **48**. However, upon receipt of a contact detection signal from detection subsystem **22**, the logic controller overrides the control inputs from the user and activates reaction subsystem **24** to stop the motion of the blade. Various exemplary embodiments and implementations of control subsystem **26**, and components that may be used in control system **26**, are described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020262 A1, entitled "Logic Control For Fast Acting Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017178 A1, entitled "Motion Detecting System For Use In Safety System For Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0058121 A1, entitled "Logic Control With Test Mode for Fast-Acting Safety System," U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/496,568, entitled "Motion Detecting System for use in a Safety System for Power Equipment," and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/533,598, entitled "Switch Box for Power Tools with Safety Systems," the disclosures of which are all herein incorporated by reference.

In the exemplary implementation, brake mechanism **28** includes a pawl **60** mounted adjacent the edge of blade **40** and selectively moveable to engage and grip the teeth of the blade. Pawl **60** may be constructed of any suitable material adapted to engage and stop the blade. As one example, the pawl may be constructed of a relatively high strength thermoplastic material such as polycarbonate, ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene (UHMW) or Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS), etc., or a metal such as fully annealed aluminum, etc. It will be appreciated that the construction of pawl **60** may vary depending on the configuration of blade **40**. In any event, the pawl is urged into the blade by a biasing mechanism in the form of a spring **66**. In the illustrative embodiment shown in FIG. 2, pawl **60** is pivoted into the teeth of blade **40**. It should be understood that sliding or rotary movement of pawl **60** might also be used. The spring is adapted to urge pawl **60** into the teeth of the blade with sufficient force to grip the blade and quickly bring it to a stop.

The pawl is held away from the edge of the blade by a restraining mechanism in the form of a fusible member **70**. The fusible member is constructed of a suitable material adapted to restrain the pawl against the bias of spring **66**, and also adapted to melt under a determined electrical current density. Examples of suitable materials for fusible member **70** include NiChrome wire, stainless steel wire, etc. The fusible member is connected between the pawl and a contact mount **72**. Preferably, fusible member **70** holds the pawl relatively close to the edge of the blade to reduce the distance the pawl must travel to engage the blade. Positioning the pawl relatively close to the edge of the blade reduces the time required for the pawl to engage and stop the blade. Typically, the pawl is held approximately $\frac{1}{32}$ -inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the edge of the blade by fusible member **70**, however other pawl-to-blade spacings may also be used.

Pawl **60** is released from its unactuated, or cocked, position to engage blade **40** by a release mechanism in the form of a firing subsystem **76**. The firing subsystem is coupled to contact mount **72**, and is configured to melt fusible member **70** by passing a surge of electrical current through the fusible member. Firing subsystem **76** is coupled to logic controller **50** and activated by a signal from the logic controller. When the logic controller receives a contact detection signal from detection

subsystem **22**, the logic controller sends an activation signal to firing subsystem **76**, which melts fusible member **70**, thereby releasing the pawl to stop the blade. Various exemplary embodiments and implementations of reaction subsystem **24** are described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020263 A1, entitled "Firing Subsystem For Use In A Fast-Acting Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020271 A1, entitled "Spring-Biased Brake Mechanism for Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017180 A1, entitled "Brake Mechanism For Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0059853 A1, entitled "Power Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020265 A1, entitled "Translation Stop For Use In Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0005588 A1, entitled "Actuators For Use in Fast-Acting Safety Systems," and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0020336 A1, entitled "Actuators For Use In Fast-Acting Safety Systems," the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

It will be appreciated that activation of the brake mechanism will require the replacement of one or more portions of safety system **18**. For example, pawl **60** and fusible member **70** typically must be replaced before the safety system is ready to be used again. Thus, it may be desirable to construct one or more portions of safety system **18** in a cartridge that can be easily replaced. For example, in the exemplary implementation depicted in FIG. **2**, safety system **18** includes a replaceable cartridge **80** having a housing **82**. Pawl **60**, spring **66**, fusible member **70** and contact mount **72** are all mounted within housing **82**. Alternatively, other portions of safety system **18** may be mounted within the housing. In any event, after the reaction system has been activated, the safety system can be reset by replacing cartridge **80**. The portions of safety system **18** not mounted within the cartridge may be replaced separately or reused as appropriate. Various exemplary embodiments and implementations of a safety system using a replaceable cartridge, and various brake pawls, are described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020261 A1, entitled "Replaceable Brake Mechanism For Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017182 A1, entitled "Brake Positioning System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0140749 A1, entitled "Brake Pawls for Power Equipment," and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/496,574, entitled "Brake Cartridges for Power Equipment," the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

While one particular implementation of safety system **18** has been described, it will be appreciated that many variations and modifications are possible. Many such variations and modifications are described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0170399 A1, entitled "Safety Systems for Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037651, entitled "Safety Systems for Power Equipment," and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0131703 A1, entitled "Apparatus and Method for Detecting Dangerous Conditions in Power Equipment," the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

A table saw adapted to implement features of the safety systems described above is shown at **100** in FIG. **3**. Saw **100** is often called a cabinet saw or a tilting-arbor saw. The saw includes a table **102** on which a work piece may be cut. The table is supported by a cabinet **104**. A blade **105** (labeled in FIGS. **4** through **7**) extends up through an opening **106** in the table and a blade guard **108** covers the blade. Hand wheels **110** and **112** may be turned to adjust the elevation of the blade

(the height the blade extends above the table) and the tilt of the blade relative to the tabletop, respectively. In operation, a user turns the hand wheels to position the blade as desired and then makes a cut by pushing a work piece on the table past the spinning blade.

FIGS. **4** through **7** show various views of the internal mechanism of saw **100**. FIGS. **8** through **13** show additional views of the internal mechanism of the saw, but with the table removed. The remaining figures show various components and mechanisms that may be used in the saw.

Table **102** is bolted onto a front trunnion bracket **120** and a back trunnion bracket **122** by bolts **124** (the bolts are shown best in FIGS. **10** through **13**). The trunnion brackets, in turn, are bolted onto and supported by cabinet **104** through holes such as hole **107** shown in FIG. **8**. The cabinet is constructed to support the weight of the table and the internal mechanism of the saw. Alternatively, table **102** could be secured directly to the cabinet or some other support instead of to the trunnions.

It is important for the table to be positioned properly relative to the blade. Typically, the front edge of the table should be as perpendicular to the plane of the blade as possible in order to make straight, square cuts. There are many mechanisms by which the position of the table relative to the blade can be adjusted. FIGS. **4**, **5**, and **13** show one such mechanism. A pin **210** extends up from a flange in rear trunnion bracket **122**, as shown in FIG. **13**. That pin is positioned substantially in the side-to-side center of the rear trunnion bracket. Pin **210** extends up into a corresponding socket on the underside of the back edge of the table and the table is able to pivot around the pin. Table **102** includes two holes **212**, one in the right front side of the table and one in the left front side, as shown in FIGS. **4** and **5**. A bolt is threaded into each of those holes and extends through the side of the table. Holes **212** are positioned so that when the bolts are threaded through the holes, the ends of the bolts abut the right and left sides of the front trunnion bracket, respectively. Those sides are labeled **213** in FIG. **8**. Threading a bolt farther into its hole will cause the bolt to push against the front trunnion bracket and the table will then pivot around pin **210**. Thus, the position or squareness of the table relative to the blade can be adjusted by threading the bolts into holes **212** a desired amount.

Saw **100** also includes front and rear trunnions **126** and **128**. These trunnions are supported in the saw by the front end rear trunnion brackets, respectively. Each trunnion bracket includes an arcuate tongue or flange **130** (best seen in FIGS. **10** through **13**), and the front and rear trunnions each include a corresponding arcuate groove **132** (grooves **132** are labeled in FIGS. **10** and **12**). Trunnion brackets **120** and **122** support trunnions **128** and **126** by flanges **130** extending into corresponding grooves **132**. In this manner, the flanges provide a shoulder or surface on which the trunnions may rest. The arcuate tongue and groove connections also allow the trunnions to slide relative to the trunnion brackets. When the trunnions slide on the trunnion brackets, the blade of the saw tilts relative to the tabletop because the blade is supported by the trunnions, as will be explained below.

A trunnion brace **134** extends between and interconnects the front and rear trunnions so that the trunnions move together. The trunnion brace also holds the front and rear trunnions square and prevents the trunnions from moving off flanges **132** when the mechanism is assembled. The trunnion brackets, trunnions and trunnion brace are shown isolated from other structure in FIGS. **14** through **16**.

The trunnions and trunnion brace are tilted relative to the trunnion brackets by gears. A rack gear **136** is cut into an edge

of front trunnion **126**, and a worm gear **138** is mounted on front trunnion bracket **120** to mesh with the rack gear. This arrangement is shown in detail in FIGS. **17** through **20**. Worm gear **138** is mounted on a shaft **140** and the shaft is supported in a bracket **142**. A collar **143** holds the shaft in place in the bracket. Bracket **142** is bolted onto front trunnion bracket **120** by bolts **144**. The bolts pass through oversized holes in the front trunnion bracket and thread into holes in bracket **142**. The oversized holes in the front trunnion bracket allow for adjustment of the position of bracket **142** up or down relative to the rack gear. Being able to adjust the position of the bracket up or down is important in order to make sure the rack and worm gears mesh properly. Of course, the oversized holes may be in bracket **142** and the threaded holes may be in the front trunnion bracket.

Other mechanisms also may be used to align worm gear **138** with rack gear **136**. One such mechanism is one or more eccentric bushings that hold shaft **140** in bracket **142**. The bushings may be turned to move shaft **140** and worm gear **138** toward or away from rack gear **136** to make sure the gears mesh properly. A possible eccentric bushing is shown in FIG. **37** at **146**. The bushing includes a hole **148** positioned off-center from the longitudinal axis of the bushing, a hex head **150** to allow a person to turn the bushing, and shoulders **152**. The bushing is configured so that two such bushings may be positioned end to end, as shown in FIG. **38**, and shaft **140** may be supported in the resulting hole **148**. When the bushings are positioned in bracket **142**, turning either of the two hex heads **150** with a wrench will cause both bushings to turn because shoulders **152** abut, and turning the bushings will cause shaft **140** and worm gear **138** to move toward or away from rack gear **136** because hole **148** is off center.

Shaft **140** extends out through a hole in cabinet **104** and hand wheel **112** is mounted on the shaft. When a user turns hand wheel **112** and shaft **140**, worm gear **138** meshes with rack gear **136** causing the trunnions to move and the blade to tilt relative to the tabletop. A plate **154** is bolted to bracket **142** and extends up past rack gear **136**, as shown in FIG. **18**, to help prevent the bottom of front trunnion **126** from moving away from the front trunnion bracket and to help maintain the rack gear and worm gear in position.

Stops **155** and **156**, shown best in FIG. **6**, limit the distance that the trunnions and trunnion brace may move. Stop **155** comprises a bolt threaded through a shoulder in the front trunnion bracket and a lock nut to hold the bolt in place. The bolt is positioned so that it will abut a side edge of the front trunnion bracket when the front trunnion is at one limit of its movement, as shown in FIG. **6**. Stop **156** comprises a bolt threaded into a hole in the front trunnion bracket (also shown in FIG. **25**). A lock nut or some other means may be used to hold the bolt in place. The bolt is positioned so that the front trunnion will abut the head of the bolt when the front trunnion is at the opposite limit of its movement. The distance the trunnions may move can be adjusted by threading the bolts in stops **155** and **156** in or out, as desired.

Saw **100** typically includes a label **157** mounted on the front of the cabinet. Label **157** includes angle demarcations to indicate the degree the blade tilts relative to the tabletop. A pointer **158** is mounted on or adjacent shaft **140** to point to the angle demarcations on label **157**. For instance, when the blade is tilted 45 degrees relative to the tabletop, pointer **158** would point to the 45 degree mark on label **157**. In the depicted embodiment, pointer **158** is mounted to the front trunnion, adjacent shaft **140**.

Saw **100** also includes an elevation plate **170**. The elevation plate is supported by the front and rear trunnions and tilts with the trunnions. The blade is supported on the elevation plate, as

will be described, so tilting the elevation plate causes the blade to tilt. The elevation plate is also configured to move up and down relative to the trunnions. Moving the elevation plate up and down is what causes the blade to move up and down relative to the tabletop.

Elevation plate **170** includes two bores **180** and **182**, labeled in FIG. **42**. A bushing **184**, which may be made from oil impregnated bronze, fits into each bore and is held in place by screws and washers **186**. The washers overlap the edge of the bushing to prevent the bushing from moving out of the bore. A support shaft **172** fits into bores **180** and **182**, as shown in FIGS. **21** through **26**, and elevation plate **170** is free to slide up and down on the shaft. Shaft **172** is bolted onto front trunnion **126** to connect the elevation plate to the front trunnion. In the depicted embodiment, shaft **172** fits into two notches **174** in front trunnion **126**. Bolts **176** and **178** then secure the shaft to the front trunnion, as shown in FIGS. **39** through **41**. Bolt **176** extends through shaft **172** and threads into a hole in the front trunnion. Bolt **178** extends through the front trunnion and threads into shaft **172**. In this manner the shaft is securely anchored to the front trunnion. Shaft **172** may be mounted to the front trunnion in other ways as well.

The distance elevation plate **170** may slide up and down on shaft **172** is ultimately defined by the spacing between notches **174** on front trunnion **126** and the spacing between bores **180** and **182** on the elevation plate. That distance, however, may be further defined by adjustable stops **186** shown in FIG. **42**. These stops are made of bolts threaded through holes in the elevation plate and lock nuts to hold the bolts in place, as shown. The bolts are positioned so they abut a shoulder **188** extending out from the front trunnion bracket, as shown in FIG. **21**. (Shoulder **188** is also shown in FIGS. **39** and **41**.) The distance the elevation plate may slide up or down on shaft **172** is thus defined by how far the stops or bolts extend.

Elevation plate **170** also includes a threaded bore **190** configured to accept a threaded shaft **192**, shown best in FIGS. **21**, **28** and **39**. Shaft **192** also extends through a bore **193** in shoulder **188** on the front trunnion bracket to further support the shaft (bore **193** is labeled in FIGS. **15** and **41**). The threaded shaft may be held in bore **193** in any manner, such as by clips or collars. A bevel gear **194** is mounted on the end of shaft **192** below shoulder **188**. A second bevel gear **196** is mounted on a shaft **198** that extends perpendicularly relative to shaft **192**. Shaft **198** extends through and is supported for rotation by the front trunnion. A collar **200** holds shaft **198** in place. Shafts **192** and **198** are positioned so that the two bevel gears mesh. Shaft **198** also extends through a hole in cabinet **104** and hand wheel **110** is mounted on the shaft. When a person turns hand wheel **110**, bevel gear **196** causes threaded shaft **192** to turn. When threaded shaft **192** turns, elevation plate **170** moves up or down on the shaft because hole **190** is threaded. Moving the elevation plate up and down causes the blade to move up and down relative to the tabletop. In this manner, a user may adjust the elevation of the blade.

The construction of elevation plate **170** and shafts **172** and **192** may be referred to as a vertical slide because the elevation plate slides vertically on shaft **172**. Other constructions of vertical slides are also possible, such as using one or more dovetail slides instead of a shaft. Multiple vertical shafts may also be used instead of one shaft and multiple vertical shafts may be spaced apart to support the elevation plate. Shafts or dovetail slides may also be positioned at each end of the elevation plate instead of at one end only.

Additionally, a motor may be used instead of hand wheel **110** to turn the bevel gears to raise or lower the elevation plate, or a motorized lift may be used instead of the bevel gears. The

11

motor or lift may be actuated by a typical switch or by a switch configured to be similar to a hand wheel.

Elevation plate **170**, and any components attached to the elevation plate (such as a motor, as will be discussed below), may have significant weight and therefore it may be difficult to turn hand wheel **110** to raise the blade. Accordingly, the depicted embodiment includes a gas spring **202** mounted at one end to the elevation plate and at the other end to a bracket **204** mounted to the front trunnion, as shown best in FIGS. **25** and **26**. The gas spring is biased to push the elevation plate up with a predetermined amount of force to make it easy for a user to turn hand wheel **110** to raise the blade. The force of the gas spring may be selected so that the elevation plate is biased up or down to take out any play or slack between threaded shaft **192** and threaded bore **190**. Forces in the range of 50 to 250 pounds may be used, depending on how much weight must be lifted.

It is important that elevation plate **170** be restricted from any side-to-side motion or rotation around the longitudinal axis of support shaft **172** in order to hold the saw blade straight, and support shaft **172** and threaded shaft **192** limit how the elevation plate may move. However, in the depicted embodiment, because the elevation plate is relatively long and supported principally at one end, and also because of manufacturing tolerances in shafts **172** and **192** and their corresponding bores in the elevation plate, there is a risk that the elevation plate may move slightly in an undesired manner, especially if the elevation plate is tilted. Accordingly, elevation plate **170** includes bores **220** and **222** in two projections at the distal end of the elevation plate, opposite bores **180** and **182**, and a guide shaft **224** is mounted in the bores. The guide shaft may be held in the bores by clips, bolts, or any other method.

A guide block **226** is placed on the guide shaft between bores **220** and **222** so the shaft can move up and down in the guide block. The guide block, in turn, is mounted to the apex of a V-bracket **228**, and the opposite two ends of the V-bracket are bolted to the rear trunnion **128**, as shown in FIGS. **25** and **27**. This arrangement allows the elevation plate to move up and down to change the elevation of the blade, but prevents the distal end of the elevation plate from moving to the side or rotating around shaft **172** because the V-bracket is bolted to the rear trunnion and the guide block is mounted to the V-bracket.

This arrangement also accommodates variances or tolerances in manufacturing. Guide shaft **224** should be substantially parallel with support shaft **172** so that the elevation plate can move up and down on shaft **172** without binding on shaft **224**. However, it may be difficult to make shaft **224** substantially parallel with shaft **172**, especially given that the shafts are spaced a significant distance apart.

In the depicted embodiment, guide shaft **224** may be mounted in an eccentric bushing **230**. Bushing **230** is similar to bushing **146** shown in FIG. **37**, except it does not need shoulders **152**. Bushing **230** has an off-center hole through which guide shaft **224** passes. The bushing is placed over the shaft and in bore **222** and held on the shaft by a clip. The bushing may then be turned to move the guide shaft and align the shaft as necessary. When the bushing is turned to its desired location, it is held in place by a set screw **232** shown in FIG. **27**.

Guide block **226** is bolted onto the apex of V-bracket **228**, as explained. A single bolt mounts the guide block to the V-bracket so the bracket can be adjusted or rotated around the bolt to align with the guide shaft so the guide shaft can slide up and down in the guide block.

12

The two ends of V-bracket **228** opposite the guide block are bolted to the rear trunnion by bolts **234**, as stated. The V-bracket itself is made of a material which has some flex, such as metal, and there is a distance between bolts **234** and guide block **226**. That distance and the flex of the material allow the V-bracket to flex out toward the rear of the saw if necessary to accommodate the guide shaft. That flex may be necessary if the distance of shaft **224** from shaft **172**, the position of shaft **172** or shaft **224** in the saw, or the dimension of other components in the saw varies due to manufacturing tolerances or other reasons. That flex also may be necessary to accommodate the expanding or contracting of the elevation plate due to temperature changes. Thus, the ability of the V-bracket to flex out helps prevent the guide shaft from binding in guide block **226**.

This mounting configuration may be thought of as constraining only one degree of freedom of the guide shaft; specifically, it constrains any side-to-side movement of the guide shaft. The mounting configuration allows the guide shaft and elevation plate to move up and down and front-to-back. This mounting configuration accommodates some misalignment of the guide shaft.

An arbor block **240** is pivotally mounted to the elevation plate as shown in FIGS. **28** and **29**. The arbor block includes two projections **244** and **246**, each projection having a bore **248**, as shown in FIG. **32**. The elevation plate includes a raised portion **250** and bore **243** extends through that raised portion, as shown in FIG. **43**. Projections **244** and **246** on the arbor block sandwich raised portion **250**, and a shaft **242** then passes through bores **248** in the arbor block and bore **243** in the elevation plate to mount the arbor block to the elevation plate. Arbor block **240** may then pivot up and down around shaft **242**.

An arbor **251** is mounted for rotation in arbor block **240**, as shown in FIGS. **28** and **32**, and the blade of the saw is mounted on the arbor so that it spins when the arbor rotates. The arbor is held in two bearings that are mounted in bearing seats in the arbor block. The bearings are isolated electrically from the arbor block by plastic overmolding on the arbor or by insulating bushings. Electrodes are positioned adjacent but not touching the arbor to impart the electrical signal to the blade used in the detection subsystem discussed above. The configuration of the arbor and electrodes are disclosed in detail in U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/496,550, entitled "Table Saws with Safety Systems and Blade Retraction," filed Aug. 20, 2003, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Shaft **242** extends outwardly from the right side of the arbor block a sufficient distance so that a brake cartridge **252** may be pivotally mounted on the shaft, as shown in FIG. **30**. The brake cartridge is sized and positioned so that it is adjacent the perimeter of a blade having a specified nominal diameter. The brake cartridge includes a pawl, and the pawl pivots toward the blade around shaft **242** to stop the blade from spinning when the detection subsystem detects that a person has contacted the blade, as described above. The brake cartridge may be constructed and mounted in the saw in many ways. Examples of how the brake cartridge may be constructed and mounted in a saw are disclosed in U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/496,574, entitled "Brake Cartridges for Power Equipment," filed Aug. 20, 2003, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/533,575, entitled "Brake Cartridges and Mounting Systems for Brake Cartridges," the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference. That provisional patent application also discloses how the position of the brake cartridge relative to the perimeter of the blade may be adjusted by

13

a linkage between the arbor block and the mounting structure for the brake cartridge. Arbor block **240** includes an aperture **253** through which a bolt may extend to adjust the spacing between the brake cartridge and the blade.

Brake cartridge **252** also acts as a mechanism to prevent a user of the saw from installing a blade larger than recommended. The brake cartridge physically blocks a large blade from being mounted on the arbor because the blade bumps into the brake cartridge.

Arbor **252** includes a pin **254** (labeled in FIG. **32**) that engages an arbor block support mechanism **256** to hold the arbor block up and prevent the arbor block from pivoting around shaft **242** during normal operation of the saw. Pin **254** and arbor block support mechanism **256** also provide rigidity to the arbor block and minimize any vibration of the arbor block during normal operation of the saw. However, when a person accidentally contacts the blade the brake cartridge will engage and stop the blade. The angular momentum of the blade as it is stopped will create a significant downward force and that force will cause pin **254** to disengage from the arbor block support mechanism. When the pin has disengaged, the arbor block will be free to pivot around shaft **242**, so the downward force resulting from stopping the blade will cause the arbor block to pivot down very quickly. The blade will also pivot down because the blade is supported by the arbor block. In this manner, the blade will retract below the tabletop of the saw when a person accidentally contacts the blade.

The arbor block support mechanism is shown in detail in FIGS. **28** and **33** through **36**. An L-shaped bracket **260** is bolted onto surface **262** on the elevation plate (surface **262** is labeled in FIG. **43**). The L-shaped bracket includes a projection **264** having a first surface **266** and a second surface **268**. The first and second surfaces define a corner region **270** into which pin **254** would normally nest. Material from projection **264** may be removed in the corner region to allow pin **254** to contact first and second surfaces **266** and **268** at points that are somewhat distant from each other to better hold the pin. A small pivot arm **272** is mounted on L-bracket **260** so that the pivot arm may pivot around a bolt **274**. The pivot arm includes a tab **276** having a support surface **278**. Support surface **278** also abuts against pin **254** to help hold the pin in place during normal operation of the saw. Pivot arm **272** also includes a distal end **280** shaped to include an aperture through which a shoulder bolt **282** may pass. The shoulder bolt passes through distal end **280** and threads into projection **264** in the L-shaped bracket. A spring **284** and washer **286** are positioned between the head of bolt **282** and distal end **280** of the pivot arm. The spring is sized to bias the pivot arm toward projection **264**. Thus, pin **254** is held in corner **270** by spring **284** pushing pivot arm **272** against the pin. Threading bolt **282** into or out of projection **264** will adjust the force exerted by spring **284** against pin **254**.

When brake cartridge **252** stops the blade, the downward force caused by the angular momentum of the blade will overcome the force of spring **284**, and pin **254** will then push pivot arm **272** aside and move down. Projection **264** includes a third surface **288** that connects with but slopes away from second surface **268**. Third surface **288** slopes away in order to provide clearance for pin **254** to move down. As soon as pin **254** moves down past the point where the third and second surfaces connect, the pin no longer contacts projection **264** so it is free to move down. Similarly, tab **276** on pivot arm **272** is rounded to quickly release pin **254** when the pin begins to move down. The intersection of second surface **268** with third surfaces **288** is positioned substantially opposite the tangent point of the rounded tab **276** so that pin **254** is released from both projection **264** and tab **276** substantially simultaneously.

14

A bumper or pad **290** is mounted on trunnion brace **134** below arbor block **240**, as shown in FIGS. **5** and **14**. When the arbor block retracts, bumper **290** stops the downward motion of the arbor block and helps absorb the energy of the retraction. The arbor block includes a surface **292** configured to contact bumper **290**, as shown in FIGS. **31** and **32**.

The energy of retraction may be significant. Accordingly, bumper **290** may be selected from materials that have good dampening characteristics and arbor block **240** may be made from a ductile iron so that the arbor block it is less likely to be damaged during retraction. Additionally, trunnion brace **134** should be constructed so that it is sufficiently strong to support bumper **290** and withstand the force of impact with the arbor block.

Trunnion brace **134** and elevation plate **170** are both construction to provide clearance for the arbor block and blade to retract in case of an accident. As shown in FIGS. **14** and **16**, the trunnion brace sweeps down from front trunnion **126** to rear trunnion **128** so that the bottom of the blade will not contact the trunnion brace when the blade is fully retracted. Elevation plate **170** also includes a recessed area **294** (labeled in FIG. **22**) that allows the arbor block to pivot down.

Saw **100** is powered by a motor **300** mounted to the bottom of elevation plate **170**. The motor may be mounted to the elevation plate in many ways. In the depicted embodiment, tabs **302** projects up from the motor and sandwich a projection **304** on the bottom of the elevation plate (projection **304** is labeled in FIGS. **42** and **43**). Bolts **305** and **306** pass through holes in the tabs and projection to mount the motor to the elevation plate, as shown in FIGS. **10** and **11**.

A drive shaft **310** extends from the motor and a pulley **312** is mounted on the drive shaft. A double pulley **314** is mounted on the left end of shaft **242** so that a first belt (not shown) may extend around the motor pulley and the outside of the double pulley. A third pulley **316** is mounted on the left end of arbor **251** and a second belt (not shown) extends around pulley **316** and the inside of double pulley **314**. Motor **300** turns pulley **312**, which then turns double pulley **314** and arbor pulley **316**, causing the blade mounted on the arbor to spin. The depicted embodiment includes a double belt system as described so that arbor block **240** may retract by pivoting down around shaft **242** without disengaging from the drive belts.

Pulleys **314** and **316** are fixed-center pulleys, so a slightly stretchy Poly-V belt designed for fixed center pulleys is used. A slightly stretchy belt also has the advantage of being able to stretch and slip on pulley **316** when the brake cartridge stops the blade. This is advantageous because pulley **316** will stop very suddenly when the brake cartridge stops the blade, but the motor and belts will continue spinning for a short period of time. A stretchy belt will be able to stretch and slip on pulley **316** when the pulley stops suddenly. Of course, other belt and pulley configurations and belt tensioning systems may be used.

The belt around pulley **316** is preferably made of a static dissipative material so that static charge does not build up on the arbor or blade. This is advantageous because in some implementations a static charge may interfere with the detection subsystem. A standard belt or a slightly stretchy belt may extend around motor pulley **312** and the outside of double pulley **314**. The pulleys may be sized so that the blade spins at a desired speed, such as 4000 rpm, while the motor spins at a different speed, such as 3450 rpm.

The belt extending around the motor pulley and the outside of double pulley **314** may be tensioned by moving the motor out. In the depicted embodiment, motor **300** is mounted to the elevation plate so that it may pivot around bolt **305**. Tabs **302** include an oversized hole **308** through which bolt **306** passes

15

so that the motor may pivot around bolt **305**. To put tension on the belt, bolt **306** is loosened and the motor is pivoted around bolt **305** away from the double pulley. When the desired tension is achieved, bolt **306** is tightened to hold the motor in position.

Trunnion brace **134** is shaped to partially shroud the blade under table **102**. Shrouding the blade prevents a person from contacting the blade under the table. This is useful because if a person contacts the blade under the table, the brake cartridge will fire and the blade will retract, possibly into the person's hand. Shrouding the blade also helps to collect sawdust created when the saw is running.

Trunnion brace **134** is shaped to create a trough or channel **320**, shown in FIG. **15**. The trough is wide enough to shroud the blade and to allow a person to reach into the saw through opening **106** in the tabletop to change either the blade or brake cartridge. Trough **320** is sloped down, as shown in FIGS. **14** and **16**, to direct sawdust toward a port **322** in the bottom of the trough. Preferably, the inside surface of the trough, including the bottom and side walls, is as smooth as possible to avoid trapping sawdust. A hose coupling **324** is mounted to the bottom of the trunnion brace over port **322**. The coupling includes a mesh **326** sized to prevent the bolt and washer with which the blade is secured to the arbor from falling through the mesh. It is possible when a user changes the blade that the blade nut or washer could fall into the saw and become difficult to retrieve. Mesh **326** prevents the bolt or washer from falling where they would be difficult to retrieve. A flexible vacuum hose or other conduit (not shown) is connected to the bottom of the coupling and extends to a similar port on the back of the saw. Thus, sawdust is collected by the blade shroud and then directed out through port **322** and through a conduit to the back of the saw. A user may connect a vacuum system to the port on the back of the saw to collect the sawdust and to create an airflow from the blade shroud to the back of the saw. The hose or conduit between coupling **324** and the port on the back of the saw is flexible so it can move when the trunnion brace tilts.

A side blade shroud **330**, shown in FIGS. **4**, **8**, **10** and **12**, is mounted on trunnion brace **134** to the right of the blade. This shroud further encloses the blade to prevent inadvertent contact with the blade and to collect sawdust. Side shroud **330** is mounted to the trunnion brace by a vertical hinge **332**. The vertical hinge allows the side shroud to pivot out, away from the blade, around the vertical axis of the hinge. Pivoting the side blade shroud out provides additional room to change the blade or brake cartridge. The additional room is especially necessary to slide brake cartridge off of shaft **242**. The side shroud includes magnets **332** to engage the rear trunnion and hold the side shroud closed, although other mechanisms may be used to hold the side shroud closed. The top of the side shroud is shaped and positioned sufficiently away from the underside of the tabletop so that the blade can tilt to the left without the side shroud bumping into the underside of the table.

A front shroud **340** is also mounted on the trunnion brace to the front of the blade. This shroud further helps enclose the blade and direct sawdust to the port in the bottom of the trunnion brace. The right side of this shroud is shorter than the left side in order to allow the blade and trunnion brace to tilt to the left. This shroud would typically be made of a lightweight material to reduce the weight of the saw. Alternatively, the trunnion brace itself may be designed to extend up and form the front blade shroud.

The underside of table **102** may include recesses to allow the blade to raise to a predetermined height without the arbor block bumping into the underside of the table.

16

The cabinet of the table saw may include in opening to allow access to the internal mechanism of the saw. FIG. **1** shows saw **100** with a cover **342** over such an opening. The cover is mounted to the cabinet with hinges so it can pivot open. A standard latch is used to keep the cover closed. The cover may include louvers to allow airflow into the cabinet.

Saw **100** may also include a switch box **344** with one or more switches to control the operation of the saw. A switch box designed for use with safety systems as described above is described in detail in U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/533,598, entitled "Switch Box for Power Tools with Safety Systems," the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Saw **100** may also come with a fence **346** that rests on table **102** and clamps to a front rail. The fence provides a face against which a user may slide a work piece when making a cut. The saw may also come with a miter gauge **348** and a blade wrench **350**. One possible fence is disclosed in U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/533,852, entitled "Improved Fence for Table Saws," the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Saw **100** may also include a riving knife positioned adjacent the back edge of the blade. The riving knife may be mounted in the saw on raised portion **250** of elevation plate **170**. Mounting the riving knife on that raised portion allows the riving knife to move up and down and tilt with the blade.

Guard **108** also may mount on raised portion **250**, and may include a splitter and anti-kickback pawls. Guard **108** can also be mounted in the saw in other ways.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The systems, mechanisms and components disclosed herein are applicable to power equipment, and particularly to table saws that include safety systems to detect human contact with the blade.

It is believed that the disclosure set forth above encompasses multiple distinct inventions with independent utility. While each of these inventions has been disclosed in its preferred form, the specific embodiments thereof as disclosed and illustrated herein are not to be considered in a limiting sense as numerous variations are possible. The subject matter of the inventions includes all novel and non-obvious combinations and sub-combinations of the various elements, features, functions and/or properties disclosed herein. No single feature, function, element or property of the disclosed embodiments is essential to all of the disclosed inventions. Similarly, where the claims recite "a" or "a first" element or the equivalent thereof, such claims should be understood to include incorporation of one or more such elements, neither requiring nor excluding two or more such elements.

It is believed that the following claims particularly point out certain combinations and sub-combinations that are directed to one of the disclosed inventions and are novel and non-obvious. Inventions embodied in other combinations and sub-combinations of features, functions, elements and/or properties may be claimed through amendment of the present claims or presentation of new claims in this or a related application. Such amended or new claims, whether they are directed to a different invention or directed to the same invention, whether different, broader, narrower or equal in scope to the original claims, are also regarded as included within the subject matter of the inventions of the present disclosure.

The invention claimed is:

1. A table saw comprising:
a table defining a work surface;

17

a nominally planar, circular blade configured to extend at least partially above the work surface to cut a workpiece on the work surface;
 a motor to drive the blade;
 an elevation mechanism configured to position the blade at various elevations relative to the work surface;
 a tilt mechanism configured to tilt the blade at various angles relative to the work surface around a tilt axis; and
 an adjustment system configured to adjust the parallelism between the tilt axis and the plane of the blade. 5
2. The table saw of claim **1**, where the elevation mechanism includes a vertical slide. 10
3. A table saw comprising:
 a table defining a work surface;
 a nominally planar, circular blade configured to extend at least partially above the work surface to cut a workpiece on the work surface; 15
 a motor to drive the blade;
 an elevation mechanism configured to position the blade at various elevations relative to the work surface, where the elevation mechanism includes a vertical slide; 20
 a tilt mechanism configured to tilt the blade at various angles relative to the work surface around a tilt axis; and
 an adjustment system configured to adjust the parallelism between the tilt axis and the plane of the blade; 25
 where the vertical slide includes two spaced apart shafts, and where the adjustment system includes a mechanism to adjust the parallelism of the two shafts.
4. The table saw of claim **3**, where the mechanism to adjust the parallelism of the two shafts includes an eccentric bushing. 30
5. The table saw of claim **3**, where the mechanism to adjust the parallelism of the two shafts includes a bracket to constrain only one degree of freedom of one of the two shafts.
6. The table saw of claim **5**, where the bracket constrains side-to-side movement of one of the two shafts. 35

18

7. The table saw of claim **5**, where the bracket is substantially V-shaped.
8. A table saw comprising:
 a table defining a work surface;
 a nominally planar, circular blade configured to extend at least partially above the work surface to cut a workpiece on the work surface;
 a motor to drive the blade;
 an elevation mechanism configured to position the blade at various elevations relative to the work surface;
 a tilt mechanism configured to tilt the blade at various angles relative to the work surface around a tilt axis; and
 alignment means for adjusting the position of the blade relative to the tilt axis.
9. A table saw comprising:
 a table defining a work surface;
 a nominally planar, circular blade configured to extend at least partially above the work surface to cut a workpiece on the work surface;
 a motor to drive the blade;
 an elevation mechanism configured to position the blade at various elevations relative to the work surface, where the elevation mechanism includes two spaced apart shafts; and
 an adjustment mechanism configured to adjust the parallelism of the two shafts.
10. The table saw of claim **9**, where the adjustment mechanism includes an eccentric bushing.
11. The table saw of claim **9**, where the adjustment mechanism includes a bracket to constrain only one degree of freedom of one of the two shafts.
12. The table saw of claim **11**, where the bracket constrains side-to-side movement of one of the two shafts.
13. The table saw of claim **11**, where the bracket is substantially V-shaped.

* * * * *